

182c

AN
ESSAY
To prove that the
JURISDICTION
AND
CONSERVACY
OF THE
RIVER of *THAMES*, &c.

Is committed to the
LORD MAYOR,
AND
CITY of *LONDON*,

Both in Point of
RIGHT and USAGE,
BY
PRESCRIPTION, CHARTERS, ACTS of
PARLIAMENT, DECREES, *upon Hearing before*
the King, LETTERS-PATENTS, &c. &c.

To which is added,
A brief DESCRIPTION of those Fish, with their
SEASONS, SPAWNING-TIMES, &c. that are caught
in the *Thames*, or sold in *London*.

WITH
Some few OBSERVATIONS on the Nature, Element,
Cloathing, Numbers, Passage, Wars, and Sensation, &c.
peculiar to FISH in general.

AND, ALSO,
Of the Water-Carriage on the River *Thames*, to the several
Parts of the Kingdom; with a List of the Keys, Wharfs,
and Docks, adjoining to the same.

By ROGER GRIFFITHS, *Water-Bailiff*.

L O N D O N:

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23

Jos: Banks

TO the RIGHT HONOURABLE
Sir RICHARD HOARE, Knt.
L O R D M A Y O R
O F T H E
C I T Y of L O N D O N,
Conservator of the River *Thames*,
and Waters of *Medway*.

A N D

To the Worshipful the Court of Aldermen,
Deputies, Common-Council,
and Citizens of the said City,

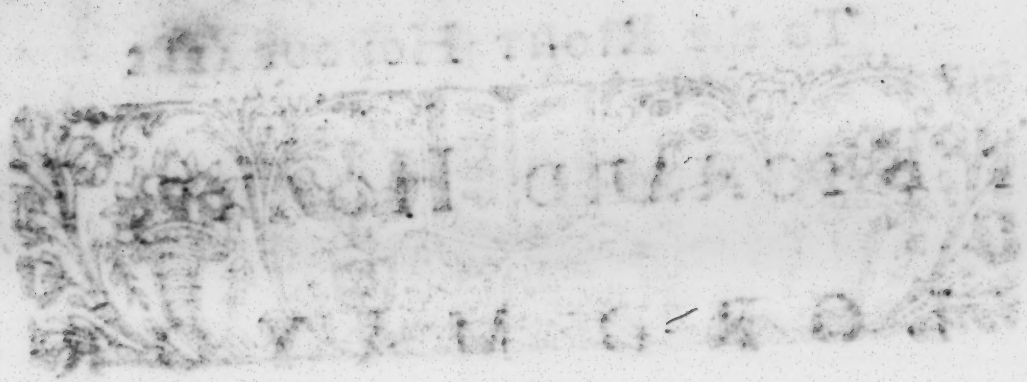
The following Essay is humbly inscribed,

By their most Obedient, and

most Humble Servant,

ROGER GRIFFITHS,

Water-Bailiff.



Patented Feb 14 1881

By J. H. ...

Attorney at Law

Washington, D.C.

...

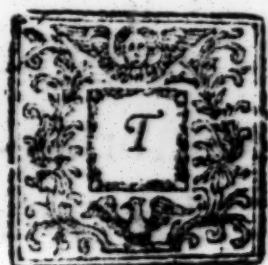
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THE PREFACE.



THE Duty and Nature of my Office, soon prompting me to consider, enquire, and search, into the Authority, Manner, and Execution thereof, I had naturally a Recourse to such Authors as had published any Thing concerning the Rights and Priviledges of the City of London, from whence I extracted the following Testimonies; which, though at first intended meerly for my own Information, are now (upon a longer Observation of their Invasion by several illegal Practices, and the ill Consequences that must naturally ensue thereon) designed as a Means to induce some more able Hand to erect a much more ample, and perfect Superstructure, then what I am capable of, or would pretend to:

And as it may not be unacceptable to the Reader, to have the several Parts of this Work connected, and in a brief Manner laid before him, I shall here, by Way of Preface, inform him, That its Intention is to set forth the Beauty and Value which the River of Thames is of to the Publick, as well as to the City of London ; to prove the said City's Power on the said River ; to exemplify, from Time to Time, the Execution of that Power ; to remonstrate the evil Consequences that must befall the City by any Abridgment, Neglect, or Abuse of that said Power ; and to point out some few Methods, in order to reform what is amiss, supply what is defective, and secure it from any illegal Attempts that are, or may (by Force or Art) be made to injure, or invade the same.

THEY that live on the Banks of this famous River, can never too much admire its Beauty, nor sufficiently extol its Usefulness. For whether we consider its Navigation, either as to the Number of Ships daily arriving from, or sailing for all the known Parts of the World, with the Riches and
Necessaries

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Necessaries of Life ; or the Number of the smaller Craft of different Sorts and Sizes, that serve not only for Pleasure, but the Profit or Conveniency of the neighbouring Shores ; or whether we consider the infinite Number of Men, whose entire Livelihood depends thereupon, as well as the great Nursery it is for the raising of Sailors for the Publick Service ; I say, when we consider all these, and the many other Benefits, together with that invaluable Blessing we have in its FISHERY, we may justly say, it far exceeds all other Rivers in the known World.

SHOULD not such a River be therefore carefully preserved from all Obstacles and Damages that may accrue either to its Navigation or Fishery ? Surely, such was the Care and Consideration of former Ages, which induced the Wisdom of the Legislature (almost from the earliest Account of Time) to repose such Powers in the Magistracy of the City of London, as to enable the Lord Mayor of the same, to hold Courts of Conservancy, to enact Laws or Orders for the Preservation of its Navigation and Fishery,

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and even to fine and imprison all Defaulters or Offenders against such Laws and Orders, which should, or might be made, from Time to Time, for that said Purpose, by the said Lord Mayor ; and, also, to nominate, appoint, and constitute a Sub-Conservator (or Water-Bailiff) for the better Executing the Office of Conservator of the said River and Waters, within the Jurisdiction of the said City.

AND, accordingly, the antient Guardians of this truly imperial City, have always looked upon this noble Jurisdiction, as one of their greatest Honours ; and have often shewn, by enacting new Orders, not only their Care of this great River, but, likewise, how much they regarded so great a Trust, as the Prosperity of its Navigation and Fishery.

BUT, surely, there never was a Time when the Abuses or Devastations in the latter were so frequent and numerous as of late Years, and that even in open Contempt and Defiance of the City's Authority and Jurisdic-

Jurisdiction ; which, if not soon remedied and prevented, must, in a few Years, be lost, and the Fishery of this River entirely destroyed ; and all this only, by a few desperate Fellows, in Comparison to the whole Body of Fishermen, who often, in Combination, and Defiance of all Laws, Rules, or Orders, now in Being, destroy the Brood and Fry of Fish therein, and that meerly for their Scales, which they sell to make Beads on ; and then either feed their Hogs, or bury in their Dung-hills the Bodies of that Fry so destroyed.

NAY, these Desperado's are lately become (through Impunity) so daring and open in this iniquitous and horrid Destruction, as frequently to contemn, insult, resist, and even, at Noon-Day, assault the Water-Bailiff, and his Deputies, in the due Execution of their Office, in Searching for, Seizing, and Taking away, their illegal Nets and Engines.

IS it not then Time for the CONSERVATOR of this profitable River, to do all that lies in his Power, to preserve, and save
from

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from Destruction, the Fishery thereof? Is it not then Time to exert his Power, and bring to Justice all such Contemners and Invaders of so antient, honourable, and necessary an Authority? Surely so.

AND if Circumstances, in the Process of Time, may have, in any wise, so altered the Nature of Things, as possibly to need some more ample Explication, or additional Parliamentary Aid, whereby to strengthen and secure, or even enlarge his Power of making new, or more effectual Laws or Orders, than those now in Being, whereby to prevent such Abuses, and to regulate, preserve, and improve so publick a Good, as is the Navigation and Fishery of the River of Thames; and for more readily bringing all such illegal Fishers, and Contemners of its Authority, to a more speedy Justice.

IS it, I say, to be doubted, that the City of London can want the ready Concurrence and Protection of a British Parliament herein?

BUT

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BUT I dare answer, that the bare mention of such Insults and Outrages against it (exclusive of the many evident ill Consequences arising therefrom) is so sufficient to excite this great City to seek for immediate Relief and Redress, to secure and strengthen if wanting, such their Authority, that it would be only Impertinence in me, to offer any farther Arguments, by Way of Inducement thereto, as it is a Matter not unworthy their strictest Attention.

NUMEROUS are the Instances of their Ancestors Care, and vigorous Defence herein, when, on many Occasions, this said Jurisdiction, and Conservacy, has been attempted to be invaded or disputed; for read only the following Essay, and you will there find, That the City of London was always so anxious, nay, so well persuaded of their Rights herein, and the common Benefits resulting to the Publick thereby, that they contended for, and defended the same; not only against the Encroachments of private Persons, but with Archbishops, Lord High-

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High-Admirals, and even with Kings themselves; and is it to be imagined they will now suffer so valuable an Authority and Jurisdiction to be thus trampled upon; or so great and general a Good, as the Fishery of this River, thus daily to be destroyed; and that, I say, by a few lawless Set of Fellows, who not only thus rob the Publick, but greatly injure their own Fraternity? No! The City of London is too great and powerful a Body, to be thus affronted, without exerting that Authority, which has been so long lodged in their Hands, or seeking for such further Assistance, as the Legislature shall deem necessary to preserve and maintain the same.

MANY are the Proofs she has given, how much she has the Interest of the whole Nation at Heart, and she cannot therefore be less hearty in her own peculiar Cause, nor less tenacious of her own Authority, when thus insulted, contemned, and trampled upon.

BUT to return to the Substance or Intention of this Treatise, wherein the Orders for
pre-

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preserving this Fishery ; the Fishermens two Charters ; the Acts for regulating the Watermens Company, are here chiefly inserted, only as so many concurrent, subsequent Testimonies of the aforegoing Charters, Acts of Parliament, and other Proofs of the City of London's said Jurisdiction and Conservancy, and wherein you will always find a Reservation of, and Regard had thereto.

AS to the Description of Fish, I have added it herein ; not only to shew the various Kinds that are bred, and caught in this River, but that the Reader thereby may more readily know, which are the more palatable, wholesome, or best ; when most in Season, or otherwise ; their Times of Spawning, Breeding, and consequently, when most proper to be taken or preserved.

AND for the general Observations on the Element, Cloathing, Numbers, Passage, Wars, Fruitfulness, Cause of Swimming, Sensation, Longevity, and other Peculiarities, belonging to this valuable Animal, it is here inserted, as well to shew the
Diving

Divine Wisdom, Power and Goodness, not only in its wonderful Contexture, Regulation and Breeding; but withal, in the abundant supplying our Table with such a Variety of them.

AND I have been herein the more particular, in Regard to the Fishery of this River, as it evidently calls aloud for a more immediate Relief than what its Navigation (in the main) does, and which, if not soon regarded, must certainly go to Destruction. The which, with the Duty and Justice I owe the Publick, City, and Myself, in the Care I bear herein, has prompted me to publish this imperfect Essay, in order to just point out how far the City's Power may extend towards the Preservation and Improvement of these two invaluable Blessings, especially in the latter, as well as the Necessity and Reason there is for doing it, and no other Motive could have induced me thus to expose my own Inabilities: So hope the Reader will excuse the Incorrectness, and other Deficiencies he will here find; and, as I have already hinted, heartily wish this
may

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may prove the Means, or Foundation of a more perfect Work.

I HAVE also here added a brief Account of the principal Keys, Wharfs, and Docks, of this River, that adjoin to this City, with the several Counties, and Towns, from whence there are Boats, &c. passing to, and fro, or Goods carried; in Order to prove the greater Usefulness, and extensive Navigation, of this River.

BUT to sum up the whole Intention of the following Essay: Were there but proper Laws, and Ordinances, for the Preservation of this River, authentickly and duly established, to enforce those now in Being, which, through Length of Time, and the Evasive late Contrivances of illegal Fishers, are become almost obsolete, and insufficient for their intended good Purposes: Were the Means to bring Offenders to Justice, and legal Punishment more effectual, and less difficult to be put in Execution; were I, and my Deputies, effectually protected, in
Detecting

Detecting and Preventing illegal Practices, and seeing a due Observance of such Laws and Ordinances, as are, or may be made for the Conservacy of the said River; and they, as it is observed before, not so discouraged and intimidated, from exerting themselves herein; I am sure, the River would then be more strictly and duly preserved; the City's annual Expence, on that Account, much lessened; the Publick more plentifully and cheaply supplied with good and wholesome Fish; and even the Fishermen, in general, get a much more easy, and better Livelihood.



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ERRATA.



ERRATA.

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p. 11. l. 11. for this River, r. that River. ib. l. 20.
r. flowing to the. ib. l. 23. r. on that Side, which gives.
p. 14. l. 2. after beneficial, add is. ib. l. 2. after not,
dele is. p. 15. l. 11. for above four, r. above five. p.
17. l. 15. after &c. add to stop and raise the Currency
of, ~~and~~ the Water. p. 41. l. 25. after Days, add
famous. p. 55. l. 27. after Deptford River, S. add Stif-
ford or Flete River, and Crouch River. p. 56. l. 12.
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Side-Note; for Act of Common-Council, r. An Order
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l. 5. for Cord-Net; r. Cod-Net. p. 93. l. 29. for Laws,
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being in Length, add 10 Inch Fish or more, Salmon.
p. 124. l. 32. after as a, add Deodands. p. 222. l. 35.
after differs, add little.







THE
CONSERVACY
OF THE
THAMES, &c.



THE CITY of *LONDON*, as upon all Occasions, it has distinguished itself in the Support and Defence of its King and Country, so has it also been rewarded, as a just Return for its Fidelity, with many noble, valuable, and antient Privileges ; amongst which, I apprehend, its *jurisdiction* and *Conservacy* of the River *Thames*, and Waters of *Medway*, is one of the most *honourable*, both for its *Antiquity*, *Authority*, and *Usefulness*.

IF I should attempt a compleat History of this most famous River, that alone, were I equal to the Task, would carry me beyond my intended Brevity ; for, considering its *Rise*, beautiful *Course*, *Extent*, *Navigation*, *Product*, and the vast *Number of Hands* it wholly maintains, it will be found not only

B

the

The CONSERVACY of

the most famous River in the Island of *Great Britain*, but, without any Partiality, little, if at all, inferior to any other River in the whole *World* : Therefore,

I shall confine myself to the following Particulars necessary to be premised, for the better understanding the City's Power thereon, as well as of what great Consequence the *Naviga- tion* and *Fishery* of the River *Thames* is, not only to the Publick in General, but also to the Inhabitants, as well of all the adjacent Counties, as of the City of *London* in Particular.

BUT first, I must beg leave to add somewhat of the *Beauty* and *Usefulness* of Rivers in General, and then proceed to the Description of the *Thames* in Particular: And herein I know of no Account so natural, or so well adapted to explain these two great *Qualities*, and, at the same Time, to comprehend, and give us so lively, so natural, and so just a Representation thereof in the River of *Thames*, that I cannot forbear incerting here the Words of a late Author, *viz.* “ What a delightful
 “ Scene, says he, is a soft murmuring Stream !
 “ Whether we reflect on the gentle Motion
 “ of its Waters, or on the various Benefits
 “ and Advantages arising from it, or use our
 “ Endeavours to trace it to its Head ; we
 “ are charmed with its Glidings in such beautiful Meanders : The numberless Accom-
 “ modations it affords us, fills us with the
 “ most grateful Acknowledgments, and our
 “ Curiosity is excited to the last Degree, by
 “ the Obscurity of its Original, which at first
 “ is nothing more than a Vein of Waters issuing from some Hill upon a Bed of Sand, or
 “ Clay,

“ Clay, the little Stones that are dispersed
“ round about, are sufficient to interrupt its
“ Current. It turns, winds, and murmurs
“ as it rolls along, at last it clears its Way,
“ falls in a Torrent down upon the Plains,
“ and swells, by being united with some other
“ Streams. It hollows the Ground by the
“ Rapidity of its Fall, and throws up the
“ Earth on each Side of it. It insensibly
“ forces its Way through every Thing that
“ obstructs its Passage, and digs a Bed or
“ Channel for its self. The overflowing of
“ the adjacent Springs and Ponds, the Snow
“ that melts and trickles down the Hills, and
“ the additional Supplies of various Brooks
“ and Rills that fall into it, fortify and en-
“ rich it. Then it assumes a Name, and
“ steers its Course along the Sides of the
“ flowry Meads. It takes a Tour round the
“ Hills, and graces, as it turns and winds,
“ the spacious Plains.”

It is the general Rendezvous of almost all living Creatures ; and, in a Word, is as delightful to Man, as it is to Birds and Beasts. We generally reject the Hills and Woods, and fix our Habitations on its Banks.

It refreshes the Farmer's thirsty Soil, and adorns the pompous Seats of the Nobility, with the most delightful Prospects, and makes the Country every Way agreeable : It pays a Visit to those large Towns, that are indebted to its friendly Streams, for all their Wealth and Commerce.

THERE it majestically rolls along between two Rows of costly Buildings, which not only adorn, but are adorned by it. The in-

cessant Concourse of People, the Multitude of Carriages of all Sorts that are for ever passing over its Bridges ; the infinite Number of Boats, and other Vessels, that are constantly floating on its Surface : In short, those agreeable, but confused Sounds that are heard, not only over its Waters, but all along its Keys, give us at once the Idea of Trade and Opulence.

THE principal Aim of Divine Providence in the Formation of Rivers, was, no Doubt, to furnish both Man and Beast, with one of the most necessary Ornaments of Life ; one that will either refresh us when we are faint and thirsty, keep our Habitations, as well as our Bodies, clean and wholesome, and not only dress our own Provisions, but adorn our Tables with the most delicate Part of them. And I shall here add, that the Water of this River is justly esteemed as exceeding wholesome, and peculiarly remarkable for its Use in very long Voyages, during which, it will (more than any other River Water whatever) work and ferment itself like Liquor, till it becomes perfectly fine.

BUT to be more particular in my Account of the *Thames*, I shall begin first with its *Rise, Course, Extent, and Tides*.

THE *Thames* ariseth in a small Spring, near the Village of *Hemble*, in the Parish of *Cubberly*, or *Coberley*, a little to the South-west of *Cirencester*, in the County of *Gloucester*, which, to be sure, is the most distant Stream : But others have rather chosen to place its Fountain near *Siddington*, where the *Isis* springs : A Matter of no great Consequence,
to

to deserve our present Regard: However, this is certain; after receiving an infinite Number of small Rivulets, it becomes navigable at *Lechlade* *, where it unites with the *Colne*, to which Place, Vessels of forty or fifty Tons Burthen trade with Ease. Then continuing its Course almost due North-East, it washes the City, and famous University of *Oxford*; and being joined with the *Ouse*, it runs South to *Abington*, from thence East to *Dorchester*, and so to *Thame* in *Oxfordshire*, where both its former Names of *Isis* and *Ouse* are swallowed up by that of *Thamasis*, or *Thames*, which it retains ever after, till it meets the northern Ocean; Washing, as it takes its Course, through *Berkshire*, *Buckinghamshire*, *Surry*, *Middlesex*, *Essex*, and *Kent*, the Towns of *Wallingford*, *Reading*, *Henly*, *Marlow*, *Maidenhead*, *Windsor*, *Eaton*, *Stains*, *Chertsey*, *Weybridge*, *Shepperton*, *Walton*, *Sundbury*, *Hampton Town* and *Court*, *Thames-Ditton*, *Kingston*, *Twickenham*, *Richmond*, *Shene*, *Isleworth*, *Kew*, *Brentford*, *Mortlake*, *Barnes*, *Chiswick*, *Hammersmith*, *Putney*, *Fulham*, *Wandsworth*, *Battersea*, *Chelsea*, *Lambeth*, *Westminster City*, *Southwark*, and the *City of London*; and from hence, both Shores thereof, may be called a continued City, for the Number of Houses, Trade, and opulent Inhabitants, that live in *Horselydown*, *Wapping*, *Redriff*, *Shadwell*, *Ratcliff*, *Limehouse*, *Deptford*, and *Greenwich*: To these we may add the Hamlet of *Poplar* and *Blackwall*, or *Cold-Harbour*, *Woolwich*, *Erif*, *Grays*, *Graves-*

* Which is 138 Miles from *London*.

end, and *Milton* : And in this Tract or Course, this River swallows up the River *Kennet*, the *Thetis* or *Tide*, the *Colne*, *Guildford* River, the *Brane* or *Brene*, the *Brome*, the *Lee* or *Ley*, the *Derwent*, and *Medway*. In the whole, therefore, we compute this River to run 180 Miles, at least, from its Source to its Fall. And,

THE Tide ebbs and flows above 70 Miles up this River within the main Land, which is done twice in every 24 Hours ; by which Means, all her Channels are filled as often, to the great Advantage of Trade and Navigation. Concerning which, it is necessary to observe, that, as the Tide is influenced by the Increase and Decrease of the Moon, so the Tides differ in their Times, each one coming 24 Minutes later than the former, which wants but 12 Minutes of a whole Hour in 24. And, therefore, they who have any Dependance on the Ebbing and Flowing of the River *Thames*, are regulated by such a Table as follows :

The Tide Table at London Bridge.				
N. Moon. F. Moon.	Hour 3	Min.	Explanation.	
Days after the New or Full Moon.	1	3	48	By your Almanack, see how many Days are past since the last <i>New</i> or <i>Full</i> Moon. Then look for that Number in the 1st Column, and opposite to it, in the 2d Column, you have the Hour and Minute, at which it will be High Water at <i>Lond. Bridge</i> . Thus you see, 5 Days after the <i>New</i> or <i>Full</i> Moon, has the Tide full at 6 Hours and 30 Minutes, or 30 Minutes past 6 a Clock.
	2	4	31	
	3	5	14	
	4	6	52	
	5	6	30	
	6	7	03	
	7	7	36	
	8	8	24	
	9	9	27	
	10	10	30	
	11	11	28	
	12	12	26	
	13	1	19	
	14	2	12	

N. B. BUT after all, this Table only serves when the Tide is regular, and not interrupted by any Accidents; for, if the Wind proves rough at West or South West, it is known to stop the flowing in of the Tide to its usual Height; and the boisterous North-East Wind has the contrary Effect. Another Accident is the overflowing of the Banks of the *Thames*, occasioned by great Rains, which being stoppt in their Course to the Sea by the flowing Tide, must consequently make some Alteration in the Height of the Water, of which there are several extraordinary Examples recorded, both in

ancient and modern Histories *. As to the Shifting, or preternatural Tides, as some call them, they have either been of that little Consequence, as to deserve no Remark, or may be properly accounted for by what has been already observed concerning the Influence of the North-West Wind encountering a slow Ebb at the *Thames's* Mouth; which, at least, for a certain Space, must cause a return of the Tide. But the most general Rule to know the Time of Tide at *London Bridge*, is, that when the Moon is in the *Full*, or *Changes*, then it is High Water at or near Three o'Clock following; and it is likewise High Water there at Eight o'Clock, or within a few Minutes after the Moon enters into its *First* or *Last* Quarters, and you are only to add — Minutes to each 24 Hours (or Days) if your Enquiry happens after each said Quarters of the Moon, to the Hour here given.

THE next Observation shall be concerning the several *Reaches*, and *Eights*, in this River; and then, its *Navigation* and *Fishery*.

I shall first set down the several *Reaches* between *London Bridge* and *Gravesend* only, and afterwards the *Reaches* that are above the said *Bridge* in the River Westwards.

THE *Reaches* below the Bridge, or Eastwards, are,

1st, THE *Pool*, which begins at the *Tower*, and reacheth to *Limehouse*, a common anchoring Place for *Colliers*.

* See *Maitland's History of London*, p. 49, 135, 145.
2dly.

2dly, *Limehouse Reach*, which extends from *Limehouse* to *Poplar*.

3dly, *Greenwich Reach*, which reaches from *Poplar*, by the *Isle of Dogs*, to below *Greenwich* on the South Side, and on the North Side Half-way to *Blackwall*, or to the *Ferry-House*.

4thly, *Blackwall Reach*, which begins at *Blackwall* and ends at *Nel-Hope*; or,

5thly, *Bugby's Hole*, which again extends to

6thly, *Woolwich Reach*, which passing by *Woolwich*, joins

7thly, *Galleons Reach*, which extends to *Barking Creek*.

8thly, *Barking Shelf* is the next, and reacheth to *Half-Way-House* on the *Kentish Shoar*, being called so, as it is the half Way between *London* and *Gravesend*, where the next Winding of the River is called

9thly, *Half-Way-Reach*, or *Daggenham Reach*, which at *Raynham Creek* is joined

10thly, By *Erith Reach*, which receives its Name from the Town of *Erith*, situate on that Winding of the River.

11thly, The next *Reach* is called the *Rands*; and passing by *Purfleet*, the next Turning of the River is called

12thly, *Long Reach*, which extends as far as

13thly, *St. Clement's Reach*, between *Greenhithe* and *Grays*.

14thly, *Northfleet Hope* is the next *Reach*, taking its Name from the Town of *Northfleet*; and

15thly, The last *Reach* below Bridge, takes its

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its Name from the Town of *Gravesend*.

The several *Reaches* above *London Bridge*, or Westward.

1st, That is a *Reach*, though not commonly called so, viz. from the said *Bridge* to *Saw-Mill-Point*, opposite to *Whitehall*.

2^{dly}, *Lambeth Reach*, which extends from *Saw-Mill-Point* to *Nine Elms*.

3^{dly}, *Chelsea Reach*, which is much exposed to the westerly Wind, and extends from *Nine Elms* to the upper End of *Chelsea*.

4^{thly}, *Battersea Reach*, which extends from *Chelsea* to *Wandsworth*.

5^{thly}, *Putney Reach*, which extends from *Wandsworth* to the upper End of *Putney Town*.

6^{thly}, *Barne Elm Reach*, which reacheth from thence to *Hammer Smith*.

7^{thly}, The next is a short *Reach*, which only extends from *Hammer Smith* to the upper End of *Chiswick*.

8^{thly}, *Corney Reach*, which extends from *Chiswick* to the End of *Barns*.

9^{thly}, *Mortlake Reach*, from the lower End of *Mortlake* to *Brentford*.

10^{thly}, *Sion Reach*, which extends from *Brentford* to *Isleworth*.

11^{thly}, *Richmond Reach*, which extends from *Isleworth* to the upper End of *Richmond*.

N. B. A *Reach* is that Space or Bay of Water, between one *Point* of Land on the one Side the Water, to the next *Point* on the opposite Side; and which are of very great Advantage to the Navigation in general, and especially where e'er the Tides ebb and flow; for such
Turn-

Turnings of the River, are not only useful in regard to the failing Part of Navigation ; but these very *Points* or *Necks* of Land, prevent or stop that Rapidity, or rather Force of the Tide, which must and would naturally ensue, were there no such Points of Land, or were the Tides or Currents to have a long, strait and direct Course ; as is evident in *King-Road* near *Bristol*, where the Tide comes in with so much Impetuosity, Force and Suddenness, in the several Parts of ~~that~~ River, where the Currency runs in such strait Lines, and with such Force, as to render the Navigation thereof imperfect, without the Assistance of several Horses to tow or draw up the Barges, &c. against the Stream. But these Turnings are still of greater use to the smaller Crafts ; for as the Points of Lands which terminates these Reaches, throws off the Force of the Tides, either ebbing or flowing ~~to~~ the opposite Sides of the River, so as for some Space to cause an Eddy, nay often, a contrary small Current on that Side ; it thereby gives Watermen an opportunity of using their Oars, and Mariners of sailing more easily and expeditiously against the Tides, whenever they Ebb and Flow ; and are of like Service in respect to their throwing off the Force of the Currency of the River to the opposite Side, for some Space at least, by which Bargemen and Watermen, may more easily and readily Tow or Row their Barges and Wherries up the River, or against the Stream, though by some they are looked upon as dangerous in tempestuous Weather ; but this must be owing, especially Westwards of *London Bridge*, entirely either
to

to the Ignorance, or rather Carelessness, or Covetousness of the Watermen, by taking more Passengers into their Boats, than what they are allowed to do by Act of Parliament *, or by overloading them.

AND this brings me naturally to consider, first, the *Navigation*, and then the *Fishery* of this River, at least so far as the Jurisdiction of the City of *London* extends; for the Benefit, Commodiousness, and Preservation of which, the Power of Conservacy was originally granted, and has been frequently confirmed, by Royal Charters and Acts of Parliament, as hereafter I hope to make plainly appear. And I would only ask, Who is, or can be, more essentially concerned in the true Welfare of both these two Articles, or so properly to be entrusted with the Care of its Welfare, as the CITY OF LONDON?

AND, first, in respect to the *Navigation*. I could here earnestly wish I was capable of duly describing that vast, I might say, grand and glorious Appearance that is daily to be seen on this noble River, not only of Ships of War, but Ships of Merchandize, and other large Vessels, Barges, and Boats.

How agreeable must it be to every true Lover of his Country, to see below *London* Bridge (which I shall first speak of) such Numbers of Ships, from the smallest to the greatest Burden, passing and repassing every Tide, to and from this great Metropolis, to some or other Parts of all the known World! How infinite in its Traffick! How abound-

* 10 Geo. II. cap. 31.

ing in its Merchandize! And how immensely rich in its Produce or Returns! Nay, I may also truly add, How strong is it, by its Naval Force, in its own Defence, as well as thereby almost terrible Abroad, and how great an Influence does it there give us, exclusive of the Benefits and Security we also reap thereby at Home: Which brings to my View a pleasing Reflection, that every *True Briton* must have, when he considers what a trifling insignificant Tract of Land this Island is when compared to the rest of the Globe, or indeed to most, or all, of the other Kingdoms of the World; and yet how much stronger, more powerful in its Influence, abundantly better supplied with every Necessary within it self, as well as from Abroad, than almost any other Part of the known Globe; and all this I may venture to affirm, is principally, if not solely, owing to its Navigation and Naval Force: Nor can I forget what that worthy and good Citizen told one of our Kings, to whom threatening to remove his Person and Courts of Justice from this City; he replied, That it was their Comfort that he could not also deprive them of the *Thames*; for so long as they enjoyed that River, they could still retain the Commerce and Wealth of the Nation.

BUT to return: How many thousand Families are solely maintained by the Navigation of this very River, exclusive of the contingent Benefits that arise from thence to Shipwrights, Barge and Boat-builders, Gardeners, and other Trades, Handycrafts and Inhabitants adjoining thereto. In short, how
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convenient, how pleasant, and how vastly beneficial this Navigation ~~is not~~ ~~to~~ only to this great City, but to the whole Kingdom, as well as to all those, especially, who either reside, or have any Estates, or Concerns, in any of the Counties adjoining to the *Thames*, is, I say, so obvious a Matter, as to need no Explanation, and would but carry me beyond my designed Brevity to enlarge any farther thereon.

As to the *Navigation* above *London* Bridge, how beautiful, how agreeable a Sight it is to view daily, nay hourly, especially at the Flowing and Return of the Tides, that vast Number of Barges and Boats, as well of Pleasure as of Burthen, continually passing up and down this River, to and from all Parts of the adjoining Counties ! How vastly convenient for the ready, safe, easy and cheap Conveyance of all Sorts of Goods, or other heavy Commodities, from one of the adjacent Towns or Villages to another, as well as to and from this great City ! How pleasant, how amusing, and indeed how cheap and ready is the Passage up and down this River, either for those that take it for Pleasure or Business ! What a Number of beautiful Towns and Villages, fine and noble Seats is there adjoining, which were it not for the many Benefits and Advantages they receive from its being navigable, would very probably have never been so erected, or at least not near so numerous as they are : And as to the many Hundreds of Families that are wholly maintained only by the Navigation of this River westwards of *London* Bridge ; the vast Number of Barges
and

and Boats that are constantly employed thereon, both Night and Day, are sufficient to convince any Beholder.

AND so truly sensible has the City of *London* always been of the great Importance of the Navigation of this River, that its chief Magistrate and Conservator thereof, annually holds several Courts of Conservacy for its Preservation, at a very considerable yearly Expence to the City; and as a farther Proof thereof, it is not above four Years since they laid out several hundred Pounds in widening the Channel, and taking away Gravel from several shallow Places of the River westwards, which at that Time greatly obstructed its Navigation; and this last without any other Obligation on their Parts, than their Zeal for the publick Good.

BUT I am afraid even all this, or any other Expence, how great soever, will little avail to the continuing and preserving this Navigation open and free, as it ought to be, without a more uniform, and regular Method of navigating and loading the western great Barges is more duly formed and established, than what is practised at present, or has been of late Years especially. In order to explain which, and to act consistent with the Duty I owe to my Office, as well as the Publick, I shall here just point out some few of those Disadvantages which either now attend, or are but too frequently practised, to the Detriment of the Navigation westwards.

AND the first that I shall mention, and which is but too frequently committed by those Persons who are entrusted with the Na-

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vigating

vigating of these Barges, especially down the River, is this, that such Persons, whether through Vitioufness, Negligence, or Wilfulness (best known to themselves) turn their Vessels and run aground, so across the Channel of the River, as to obstruct all other Barges passing or repassing the same; and this, if I have not been misinformed, has been, and is, often done through Envy, ill Will, or other clandestine Views, to others Coming down the River at the same Time, and so to interrupt each other's Passage, that not only the Owners of the Loading often sustain Inconveniencies by such Delays, but the Navigation is thereby much impaired, by so many Vessels lying in the Way, or foul of each other, and thereby Stopping or Diverting the due Course of the River, and Turning its Current, which naturally removes large Quantities of Sand and Gravel from off the Shallows, into the Channel, to its Prejudice, both in Respect to its Dimensions, as well as Depth of Water; which the more it is expanded, must naturally be the less deep, and consequently the more incapable of bearing the greater Burthens.

OTHER Disadvantages that very much contributes to the Impairing of this western Navigation, is, *First*, the Over-building of their Barges; and, *Secondly*, the frequent Overloading of these very Vessels, through Avaritiousness, which Drawing too great a Depth of Water for the Channel, especially within the Jurisdiction, where there are no Locks, occasions their having so many Stoppages, and consequently (as has already been observed) the

the greater Detriment to its Navigation : Nay, some Persons are not contented with doing all this, but must still commit an additional bad Practise, and that is, by Floating of several Pieces of large Timber, Tying in a Breast, or in Rafts, and then Fixing them by the Sides of their Barges, which, in their Passage, must consequently plough away a great Deal of Sand and Gravel, to the Impairing and Filling up the Channel of the River.

ANOTHER Action detrimental to the Navigation, and but too often practised by Barge-men on their Vessels sticking a-ground, when, in order to remove in more immediately, they fix Planks, &c, *to stop & raise the passage of the Water.*

ALL which, and many other Impediments that are, or may arise to the Prejudice of so valuable a Benefit, as is the Navigation of this River to the Publick in general, might surely be easily removed, easily rectified, by proper Regulations being duly established, both in Regard to the Assize of their Barges, the Burthens they should each Voyage carry, Winter and Summer, if needful to be distinguished, with such Rules and Orders for the Conduct of those employed in the Navigating of such Barges, as may prevent as much as may be, any Detriment to the Navigation, or any wilful, or negligent Obstruction to each other in their Voyages, and that their Barges should be numbered; and that such Master, or Foreman, that is entrusted with the Care of any Barge, should be answerable or accountable, for any such Misdemeanor, that may be committed either by himself, or others employed with him, in such Barge :

And the Master, or real Owner of such, or any Barge or Vessel, to employ no Person as a Foreman, but whom they can entrust, or will be accountable for ; and the Justices of the Peace, on Complaint of any Damage being done to the Navigation, or wilful Obstructions, Hindrance, or Damage done to each other in their Voyages, may be empowered to hear, examine, and determine the same.

THESE, or some such, or other Orders and Regulations, as might be formed by the Barge-masters themselves, more conversant with, or in the Knowledge of all such Evils, than what I can pretend to be, would undoubtedly much contribute, not only to the preserving of the Navigation, but be of great Advantage even to themselves ; who, as I am told, are often great Sufferers by such Obstructions, exclusive of what the Proprietors or Owners of the Loading frequently sustain thereby : Whereas, were the Navigation more open, free, and uninterrupted, by proper Regulations ; and many of their Barges of a more moderate Size : Though the Owners of them did not carry such vast Loadings as they now do, yet the more Frequency of their Voyages, and the fewer Hands they would then require in each Barge, would, I should apprehend, answer much more to their Advantages, than what it does in those long, tedious, dilitary Voyages they now generally make : At least, this I am sure of, that some such like Regulations would be of Service to the Navigation, and of more Satisfaction and
Benefit

Benefit to the Proprietors of the Loadings of such Barges.

I now come to treat of the *Fishery* of the River of *Thames*; which, if not altogether of such great Consequence as the *Navigation* is to the Publick in General, yet it is of no small Concern to this great Metropolis, its adjacent Inhabitants, and all others, residing either in *Middlesex, Surry, Essex, or Kent*, and which cries out for a more immediate Relief, as it is in the greatest Danger of being *entirely ruined*, without a timely and effectual Interposition of the Legislative Power, to curb and suppress the destructive Practices of such as despise, contemn, and trample under Foot, the present Authority of the City of *London*, granted to her by *Charter*, for the *Conservation* of the *Thames*: A Matter, I say, of such Moment, that should I be silent on the Occasion, I might well be deemed truly omiffive to my Duty, the Justice I owe both to my Office, the Publick, and the chief Intention of this Treatise, which is not only to shew the *Usefulness, Beauty, and Benefit* of this noble *River*, but, by what few Extracts I have had an Opportunity of making, to shew how far the *Authority and Power* of the City of *London* has extended, or does, or may extend, towards preserving both its *Navigation and Fishery*, so much wanting in the *latter* especially: And towards which, I shall also just point out some few of the Disadvantages that attend them, with some few Preventatives: So that in Case the City of *London* should not find, or think its present Authority sufficient for the duly establishing such Orders and Regula-

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tions as may be thought necessary for the real Recovering, Improving, and Preserving the Conservacy of the *Thames*, &c. they have so long enjoyed, they may be prompted to apply to the Legislative Power immediately; where, undoubtedly, they will readily meet with Redress, and a Confirmation of their Power, as it is a Matter of no *Private* or *Party* Concern, but a *Publick* and *General* Good: For, surely, the *Fishery* of the River of *Thames* is so greatly useful, so greatly beneficial, as I have already observed, to all its adjacent Counties, as well as the Support of such vast Numbers of Fishermen, as to render any Arguments for preserving the Conservacy thereof needless: I, therefore, shall only observe with what Kinds of Fish this River furnisheth us with, when its *Conservacy* is preserved, and well executed.

THOUGH the infinite Variety of Fish with which the Sea abounds for our Refreshment and Delight, seems a Prodigy; yet those which *this* only River nourishes and supports, are likewise almost as Surprising, and certainly must be gratefully acknowledged; if we do but consider what a great Variety of different Kinds it produces for our Use, either in its fresh or salt Waters: So good, so wholesome, nourishing, and (if there were once but proper Laws duly established for their better Preservation, I might then truly say) so numerous, that few Rivers, if any, in the World, can boast of.

How remarkably good is its *Salmon*! what fine large *Flounders*, *Smelts*, *Shads*, *Trout*, *Graylin*, *Perch*, *Carp*, *Tench*, *Barbell*, *Chub*,
Roach,

Roach, Dace, Gudgeon, Pike, and other Fish, as Eel, Lampreys, Bleak, Ruffe, &c. (too many to mention) are there caught above *London-Bridge*; nay, and oftentimes *Sturgeon*, and that of a considerable Size: And, withal, how many other Kinds of Salt-water Fish, as *Bass, Mullet, Turbets, Soles, Maids, Plaice, Dabs, Skates, Thornbacks, Halybuts, Pearl, Whiting, Haddocks, &c.* with several Sorts of Shell-fish, as *Oysters, Muscles, Cockles, Buntins, Crabs, Prawns, red and white Shrimps, Crawfish, &c.* are there to be caught below Bridge, even within the Jurisdiction of the City of *London*.

AND, indeed, how greatly would all these several Kinds of Fish abound; how plentifully, how well, and how cheap, would all our Markets, nay, all the adjoining Counties, be supplied therewith, were their *Spawn, Brood, and Fry*, but well preserved? For I may venture to affirm, that there is no River in all *Europe*, that is a better, or a more speedy Breeder, and Nourisher of its Fish (particularly the *Flounder*) than is the *Thames*:

WHICH naturally leads me just to point out some few of the *Causes* of so great an *Evil*, as the *Destruction of the Fishery* of the River of *Thames* must manifestly be; and then I shall humbly submit my Sentiments, in Respect to the Means of Restoring, Amending, and Preserving the same, to be improved by much more able and better Judges.

As to the *Causes* of this said Destruction, they are quite too many, at present, to be particularly described; but in general, they are such as, *Fishing at unlawful Times, Seasons,*

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and Manner ; *using of unlawful Nets and Engines*, and thereby destroying the *Spawn, Brood,* and *Fry* of Fish in General.

THE first and greatest of these Iniquities that I here take Notice of, is the Taking of Fish in *spawning Time*, when they (at least most Sorts) are *scabby, tasteless, and unwholesome* ; and the Killing of *one* just ready to Spawn, is destroying of many *Thousands* : But the *Drawing the Shores* at such Times (but too much practised) and thereby Breaking and Disturbing the Spawn, before it is impregnated with Life, is the Destruction of *Millions*.

THE next *Evil* I shall mention is, that great Destruction that is, and has been (especially of late Years) made of the *Brood* and *Fry* of Fish ; and as a Conviction of which, I need only refer the Reader to take a View, at any Time, of *Billingsgate*, or any other *Fish-Market* ; or to observe what *small* sized Fish are daily exposed for Sale there, or in the Streets ; how few large, fine, full-grown Fish (and, indeed, how few in Number of any Size) will he there meet with ; and, withal, how very dear even these few, such even as they are in Comparison to what Fish used to be sold at not many Years past ; and all this is to be attributed, not to the River, but to that great Havock that is made of its *Spawn, Brood,* and *Fry* ; which will more plainly appear, if we examine into the State of this *Fishery*, in the latter End of her late Majesty Queen *Anne's*, and the Beginning of his late Majesty's King *George's* Reigns, when the Company of *Fishermen* were re-established, and empowered to make By-laws and Ordinances for their Rule
and

and Government in *Fishing*, &c. so as to be first approved, altered, or amended, by the Lord Mayor, and Court of Aldermen: The which By-laws and Ordinances, were formed, &c. accordingly, and, so far as they relate to the Preservation of the *Fishery*, are indisputably very good and proper for that Purpose; and while they were in Force (which expired on the Dissolution of the said Company, and that they exerted themselves in Detecting and Punishing the Aggressors of them, then, as I have been informed by several old, serious, credible Fishermen) was evidently seen, how abundantly this River began to be filled, and our Markets supplied with good and wholesome Fish, large and cheap: Then did they all get a good and easy Livelihood; whereas, at present, much the greater Part of them, who are either consciencious, or afraid of offending, can scarce get a bare Subsistence for themselves and Families; while the other few (desperate, loose, and lawless) revel with Impunity, on the real Destruction of the whole Fishery. And unhappy was it (I am sure, for the Publick, if not for themselves) that their Company continued in Being so few Years, owing, as I have been credibly told, to their own Divisions, partial Proceedings, and Connivances of each other, when in Office, which is not altogether to be so very much wondered at, by those who are once acquainted with the Tempers, Education, and Dispositions of the *Generality* of that Class of People.

Now, as I have already hinted, ~~the~~ the Reason why this River is not now so plentifully

stored with all its various Kinds of Fish, viz. by its *Spawn*, *Brood*, and *Fry*, being so greatly destroyed, as it formerly has been; I shall, in the next Place, consider of the Means of preventing these Evils, the which will jointly explain many of its Causes: And that, in short, is for want of proper *Laws*, *Ordinances* and *Regulations*, for the *Times*, *Seasons*, and *Manner* of *Fishings*, with what Sort and sized *Nets* and *Engines*; the proper *Affize* of each Kind of *Fish*, should be taken of, with reasonable *Pains* and *Penalties* for offending herein, being duly established and enforced; and all Offenders against such *Laws*, &c. being more readily brought to Justice, than they now are, or can be, for such Transgressions, and punished accordingly.

✓ WHICH brings me to another Reformation, that is as greatly wanting, and without which I am afraid, the best Regulations will prove but abortive; and that is, the entire Suppression, or strictly punishing of such Offenders, who (through Impunity) are now grown so insolent and daring in their illegal Fishings, as to put all *Laws*, all *Authority*, in open Contempt and Defiance, by not only denying absolutely to have their Nets examined, but likewise positively refusing to surrender them up, though ever so illegal or unsizable; nay, frequently insulting, resisting, and assaulting those Persons, duly authorized for the searching for, and seizing all such illegal Nets and Engines, in the very execution of their Duty, to the intimidating and greatly Discouraging of many Persons, who
would

would otherwise willingly and readily exert themselves in the Preservation of this Fishery: But if such Outrages, such Contempts, and Insults, on the City's Authority, are permitted to go unpunished, it is not to be wondered if that thorough Inspection into the Times and Manner of Fishing, is not so truly made as it ought to be, by such as are deputed so to do: If Danger is suffered to attend the Execution of their Duty; then weak, contemptible and imperfect, must that Jurisdiction surely be, which has nothing but Force, or superior Strength, to support it; which is frequently the Case now a-days, in attempting to take away the unlawful Nets and Engines; the which Outrages are not only an Indignity on its Authority, but must consequently create so much the greater Expence in the Execution of it: Wherefore, as all such Insults or Resistances, are not Contempts and Violences on the *Person* that executeth the Trust, but on the *Authority* of those who duly depute and authorize him: And as in the Security, Safety and Regard, shewn to such their Office, consists the true *Welfare* and *Preservation* of this *Fishery*, and, I might add, of the *Jurisdiction* itself, it would be surely quite needless to offer any farther Explanation or Arguments on this Account; and, I doubt not, but that the Consideration either of this, or any of the other Evils herein already mentioned, or any other Disadvantages that do or may attend either the *Navigation* or *Fishery* of this useful and noble *River*, as it always has, so it undoubtedly ever will be, esteemed by the CITY of LONDON,

DON, as worthy of their strictest Attention, Care and Concern, as of all other its antient and valuable Priviledges, none of which (as has already been observed) does it self more Honour, or is of greater Consequence to the Publick, than is the *Jurisdiction* and *Conservacy*, of the River of *Thames*; and accordingly not only the *City Records*, but our *Histories* do afford us many convincing Proofs of the City's Sense and Care thereof.

AND all these late Evils, these late Iniquities and Contempts, both against the *Fishery* and the *City's Authority*, were so apparent to *two worthy Citizens*, who have lately had the Honour of laudably bearing the high Office of Chief Magistrate of this great City, and carefull *Conservators* of this useful River: That I cannot, without great Injustice to their earnest Endeavours for the real Welfare thereof, forbear here taking Notice, however intrusive it may be on their Modesty, that the * one sensible of the Obsoleteness, Invalidity, and Insufficiency of most of the present Orders in regard to the *Fishery*, did his Endeavours to establish several more proper Laws by Virtue of his then Office as *Conservator* thereof; but his Authority expired too soon for the perfecting his so great and beneficial Intentions for the publick Good.

THE other worthy Magistrate † was remarkably most indefatigable in his earnest Endeavours to detect, reclaim and punish Offenders; for he held no less than *Twenty* several Courts of *Conservacy* during his own Mayor-

* Sir Daniel Lambert.

† Sir Robert Willimott.

alty, and had held several more Courts, had he not found so many *Defects* in the Regulations or Rules (now in use) in relation to the *Fishery*, as to render his Endeavours abortive; wherefore he turned himself as industriously for the obtaining and settling *proper Laws*, with *sufficient Authority* for preserving the *Fishery*; in which his Inclination, and publick good Spirit and Endeavours, have not been wanting.

BUT as this great and necessary Work is still left unfinished, and the Evil increaseth, let me, by a brief Recapitulation of the Premises, excite the good and wise Magistrates of this truly noble City to proceed in the same.

First, Consider of what vast Importance the *Navigation* and *Fishery* of this River, is as well to the *Publick* in general, as the City of *London*, and its adjacent Inhabitants in particular.

2dly, Consider the evident *Decay* there is in the *Fishery*, especially of late Years, occasioned through the Obsoleteness and Insufficiency of the present Orders for preserving the same, and other Impediments.

3dly, Consider the impossibility of preventing a Body of Men (especially such an ungovernable one as are the generality of the *Fishermen*) from destroying the same, except proper Rules, as to the *Times*, *Seasons* and *Manner* of their *Fishings*, be first duly formed and established; with reasonable Pains and Penalties annexed thereto; except Offenders be more readily brought to Justice than what they

they now are; and except all Insults and Assaults on the City's Authority, in examining and seeing a due Observance paid to such Orders, be more strictly prohibited and punished.

4^{thly} and *Lastly*, Consider whether the Preservation of this noble River, is not of such general and great Consequence, as to truly merit a due Attention, Care and Inspection; and, if the City of *London*, should have the least Diffidence in regard to their own Authority, in duly establishing all such said Orders or Regulations, with reasonable Penalties; whether they need doubt a ready Concurrence, or Parliamentary Assistance, in any Thing they shall think necessary to require for the strengthening such their Authority in perfecting so good a Work, as is the Preservation of this River, in which, as has been said, the Publick's Welfare is so much interwoven?

I SHALL now proceed to give you some short Account of the *Eyghts*, or *Aits*, that are on this River, between *London* Bridge and *Stains* Bridge; all which are so many little Islands growing, as it were, out of it; some few of which are inhabited. The first that I shall take Notice of is, at

1. *CHISWICK*, which indeed is but small, and is planted, as most or all of them are, with Oziers, or Withies, of which not only Baskets, and other such Wicker Utensils are made, but Wheels, and other Engines used by Fishermen

men to catch Fish. This *Eyght* is situated on the *Surry* Side the River.

2, 3. THE next are two, near to *Old Brentford*; the one, which is commonly called *Brentford Eyght*, is a very pleasant Spot of Ground, on which is a Publick House inhabited by a Fisherman, who, of late Years, has greatly improved this Spot, by making therein several Fish Ponds, and other Ornaments, for the more agreeable Reception of those who shall make use of his House; the other, which near adjoins to this, is planted with Oziers. These two *Eyghts* are situated rather on the *Middlesex* Side the River, notwithstanding they are in the Parish of *Kingston*, in the County of *Surry*.

4. THE next *Eyght* we come to is one at *Isleworth* or *Thistleworth*, which is large, and situated on the South or *Surry* Side of the River.

5, 6. THERE are two at *Richmond*, on the opposite Side the River.

7. THERE is another near *Petersham Roots*, a noted Place for *Roach*, *Dace*, and other small Fish, coming in Spawning Time to *Hill*, as it is called, otherwise laying their Spawn there in great Quantities, being a shallow, gravelly Place, with a swift Current, and in which, and in several other such like Places of the River, as

BRENTFORD Gull, &c.

INFINITE Quantities of these Fish are destroyed at such Times by illegal Methods, to the evident and vast Destruction of this Fishery.

8. *TWICKENHAM Eyght*, though on the
Surry

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Surry Side of the River, is the next, on which is a House, called the *Eel Pye House*, formerly very eminent for the Entertainment of those who took Parties of Pleasure up and down the River.

9, 10. HERE are two more *Eyghts*, the one just above the House of the celebrated, the late Mr. *Pope*, the Poet, at *Twickenham*, both on the *Middlesex* or North Side of the River.

11, 12. THERE are also two more *Eyghts* not far above these, near *Teddington*, a Village on the same Side of the River.

13, 14. THE next are two *Eyghts*, a little on this Side *Kingston* Bridge, on the *Surry* Side of the River.

15, 16. THERE are also two *Eyghts*, the one just above this Bridge, and the other at the upper End of the Town, but both on the *Middlesex* Side the River.

17, 18. THE next are two large *Eyghts* near to *Thames Ditton*, on the *Surry* Side.

19, 20. THE next are two large *Eyghts* adjoining to each other on the *Middlesex* Side the River, just above *Hampton Court*. And

21, 22, 23. A LITTLE Mile above these are three more; one opposite to *Hampton Town* Church, which is a large one; another very large one just above the Town; and another small one near this: All three on the *Surry* Side of the River.

24, 25, 26, 27. THERE are four more near to *Sundbury Town*, all on the same Side the River; the one but small, at the lower End of the Town; a large one near the Middle, and two others at the upper End of the Town.

THERE

THERE are likewise upwards of *Twenty* more *Eyghts* within the Jurisdiction, which to be particular in describing, would lengthen this beyond its intended Compass; so shall add no more in relation thereto, than that several of them are pretty large, and probably may be inhabited, being prettily situated, and are ornamental as well as useful in checking or stopping the Currency of the River from running too immediately off; but then great Care ought to be taken, that they are not encreased, the which, in several of them, might be of the greatest Detriment to the *Navigation*, and deserves the strictest Care and Attention of the *Conservacy*, and its Courts.

I SHALL now conclude my Description of the *Thames*, with a particular Account of the Towns, Villages, &c. situated on the Banks thereof, so far as they are within the Jurisdiction of the Lord Mayor of the City of *London*: Because by that means the Reader will be informed not only of the great Usefulness of this River, to its populous Neighbourhood, which trade with all the World; and of the Necessity to preserve the *Navigation* and *Fishery* thereof, but also he may probably learn, where great Numbers of those desperate and mischievous People inhabit, who live upon the Destruction of the young Fry. I begin with

I. THE Market Town of *Staines*, in the County of *Middlesex*, which is pleasantly situated by the *Thames*, over which is a wooden Bridge, which leads to *Essex* in *Surry*, and is the high Road from *London* to the western
Parts

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Parts of *England*. A little above this Town; in a Field near the *Thames* Side, is fixed a Stone, with the Arms, &c. of the City of *London* engraved thereon, known by the Name of the *City of London Mark-stone*, which terminates the Bounds westward of the Jurisdiction of the Lord Mayor of *London* on the River of *Thames*; and on which is inscribed, though almost defaced, *God preserve the City of LONDON. A. D. 1285.* And from which Stone, a late Author says, the Town takes its Name, *Stana*, which, in the *Saxon* Language, signifies a *Stone*.

2. *LALEHAM*, on the *Middlesex* Side of the River, is a Place of but little Account, chiefly inhabited by Fishermen; who, would they but abstain as much from Fishing illegally amongst themselves, as they seem willing to prevent Foreigners coming up hereabouts to do so, there would certainly be a much greater Quantity of, and better Fish, than what there is in these Parts at present.

3. *CHERTSEY*, on the *Surry* Shore, some Distance from the River, is a good Market-Town, and famous for its Retirement. The River, near this Place, has a wooden Bridge. On the same Shore, a little below, is the Town of

4. *WEYBRIDGE*, a pleasant Town, well inhabited, and not only adorned with the Seats of the Earls of *Lincoln* and *Portmore*, but with the Ruins of a Royal Palace, called *Oatlands*.

5. *SHEPPERTON* is a Place of no great Account, unless for being much frequented

quented in the Summer Season, by those who are Lovers of Angling.

6. *WALTON* is a pretty large Town, and well inhabited with several very fine Seats in and adjoining thereto.

7. *SUNDBURY* has not much to boast of, unless several good Houses, and being situated by the Side of so delightful a River.

8. *HAMPTON* Town has several very good Houses, a Free-school, and a Ferry to *Moulsey Heath*, or *Hurst*, famous for Cricket-Matches, it being a beautiful, extensive, flat, and level Piece of Ground, or Common.

9. *HAMPTON* Court, a magnificent Structure, and now a Royal Palace, first built by Cardinal *Woolsey*, in the Reign of *Henry VIII.* It has been greatly enlarged and beautified by King *William III.* who delighted much in its Situation. Its new Buildings and Gardens are truly magnificent, and the Avenues leading to it are very stately. It has two Parks adjoining; and among the rich Furniture within, are some of the finest Pictures in *Europe*, as the *Cartoons* of *Raphel Urban*, &c. which *Cartoons* were purchased by King *James I.* At what Price is uncertain, for a most extravagant Rate hath been set on them, as they are, indeed, invaluable. This Village is much improved by its Palace, there being several Inns near it, for the Accommodation of Strangers, as well as those who follow the Court. Nearer *London*,

10. *THAMES DITTON*, is on the *Surry* Side; a Village of very little Account. Also a Village called *Molesey*.

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11. *KINGSTON* in *Surry*, is joined to *Kingston-Wick* in *Middlesex*, by a wooden Bridge. This Town was originally called *Moreford*; but afterwards *Kingston*, for being the Place where *Athelstan*, *Ethelbert*, and *Edwin*, were crowned Kings, and received their imperial Sceptres, sitting in a Chair, upon a Stage in the open Market-Place. At present it is a large and well inhabited Corporation, governed by Bailiffs, &c. enjoying large Immunities, and distinguished, by its Appointment, for one of the Places where the Assizes of the County shall be kept, and where the Justices keep one of their quarterly Sessions. Its Market is much frequented by Mealmen and Higlers, who resort thither to buy up the great Quantities of all Sorts of Grain, Poultry, and other Provisions, brought thither every *Saturday*, by the Conveniency of their wooden Bridge. The next Place, nearer *London*, is the small Town of

12. *T E D D I N T O N*, formerly called *Tide-Ending-Town*; because, before the Building of *London-Bridge*, the Tide always flowed up thither, as the Spring-tides still are observed to do.

13. On the opposite Shore in *Middlesex*, stands the handsome Town of *TWICKENHAM*; which, besides other Persons of Quality and Fashion, has of late Years been distinguished with the Seats of the Earls of *Bradford*, *Strafford*, of the Countesses of *Suffolk*, *Westmorland*, and *Ferrers*, and with the Retirements of Mr. Secretary *Johnson*, and Mr. *Pope*, the Poet, and others.

14. JUST

14. JUST adjoining to *Ham House*, the fine Seat of the Earl of *Dysert*, on the *Surry* Shore, is the pretty Village of *PETER-SHAM*, well adorned with Noblemen and Gentlemens Houses.

15. *RICHMOND* is the next in Course on the *Surry* Shore. It is a pretty large Town, and very agreeable in the Summer. Here is a Royal Seat, and the Remains of that Palace, wherein King *Henry VIII.* and his Daughter, Queen *Elizabeth*, ended their Days; now parcelled out into Tenements. Here is also a fine Park, encompassed with a Wall, at least six Miles about, and was a Part of her late Majesty Queen *Caroline's* Dowry. And her said Majesty took so much Pleasure in this Spot of Ground, that she built herself an Hermitage or Grotto therein, for her own Retirement, and enriched it with a handsome Library, and adorned it with the Bustos of those four great *English* Philosophers, Sir *Isaac Newton*, Dr. *Samuel Clark*, Mr. *John Lock*, and Mr. *Wollaston*, the Author of *the Religion of Nature delineated*.

16. *ISLEWORTH*, commonly called *Thistleworth*, in *Middlesex*, is a large Town, containing many well built Houses, and Country Seats of the Nobility and Gentry.

17. *KEW-GREEN*, on the *Surry* Shore, is at present, much frequented by his Royal Highness the Prince of *Wales*, who has a fine Palace there. Crossing to the opposite Shore, you see, before you enter *Brentford*, a fine old House near to the *Thames*, called

18. *SION-HOUSE*, which had its Name from the *Holy Mount*, so called, when it was

a Nunnery, founded by King *Henry V.* but afterwards, on the Dissolution of the Monastries, given by King *Henry VIII.* to the Earls of *Northumberland*, and is now the Estate of his Grace the Duke of *Sommerfet*, who married the Heiress of that truly noble Family. It was for some Time the Residence of the Princess *Anne* of *Denmark*, afterwards Queen *Anne*, while she was out of Favour with King *William III.* the Duke of *Sommerfet* having made her a Compliment of it. Passing from thence, you immediately come to

19. *BRENTFORD*, the *Old* and *New*, which is a considerable Market-Town, and through which is the great Road to the *West*, and lying so near *London*, has a considerable Trade, especially for Corn, both by Land and Water Carriage.

20. As soon as you leave *Brentford*, you enter a Number of Houses near the *Thames*, called, *STRAND-ON-THE-GREEN*, where many Merchants and Gentlemen have their Houses; but is chiefly inhabited by Fishermen; and who have long been, and now are, more remarkable, than at any other Place, in their illegal Fishings, &c.

21. *MORTLAKE*, in *Surry*, is a long Town, close to the River, containing many good Buildings, well inhabited by Gentlemen and Merchants.

22. *CHISWICK* lies a little lower, on the same Shore, and is remarkable for several good Buildings, for the Seat and Gardens of *Richard* Earl of *Burlington*, a Nobleman much and justly distinguished for his fine Taste in the polite Arts, but particularly in *Architecture*, of his

his great Skill in which, he has given many grand Specimens.

23. *HAMMERSMITH*, about a Mile further, is a good Village, and well inhabited; but particularly remarkable for a Nunnery of *English Roman-Catholick* Ladies, which goes under the Name of a Boarding-School: By which Means, this Village is noted for Inhabitants of that Religion.

24. *BARNES* is a small Village of little Note.

25. *BARN-ELMS*.

26. *FULHAM* is the next Town on the *Middlesex* Shore, which contains many good Houses; and on the West is bounded with a good old Palace, belonging to the Bishops of *London*, and, on the East, by *Parsons Green*, where are several very good Buildings, particularly the Earl of *Peterboroughs*, which is remarkable for its fine Gardens, and the *Tulip-Tree* therein. *Fulham* is joined to *Putney* on the *Surry* Shore by a wooden Bridge over the *Thames*, which was begun to be built by private Subscriptions. It was finished in the Year 1729. and the *Pontage* or Toll paid for Crossing this Bridge, settled on the Subscribers by Act of Parliament †, answers so well, that they divide yearly, at least, 9 *per Cent.* as it is commonly asserted.

27. *PUTNEY*, on the *Surry* Side, contains many good Houses; but though some are larger, I may say few, in any Place, are to be compared to the well situated, neat, regular, and convenient Seat, lately built on the Brow of the Hill, and the East Side of this

† See 13 *George I.* Cap. 36.

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Town, by *Percival Lewis*, Esq; About a Mile nearer *London*, on the same Side the River, is the Town of

28. *WANDSWORTH*, where is carried on a great Trade in the Dying Business; but it is chiefly inhabited by Fishermen. And about a Mile and Half eastward, on the same Shore, is the pretty little Town of

29. *BATTERSEA*, where is the Seat of the Right Honourable Lord Viscount *St. John* of *Battersea*; but it is principally inhabited by Gardeners, who contribute much to the Supplying of the Markets in *London* and *Westminster*, with Garden-Stuff of all Sorts, and once very remarkable for *Esparagus*. And almost opposite, on the *Middlesex* Shore, begins the long Town of

30. *CHELSEA*, where are many good Buildings; but they are chiefly occupied by Boarding-Schools, or Lodgers. Here is also a good old Palace belonging to the Bishops of *Winchester*, another belonging to the Duke of *Beauford*, another to the Duke of *Ancafter*, and a fourth, formerly the Seat of the Earl of *Ranelegb*, but now converted into a Rendezvous for the Musical and the Gay; a splendid Amphitheatre built in the Gardens, in the Form of the famous *Rotunda*, once the *Pantheon* at *Rome*, where Conferts of Vocal and Instrumental Musick are performed, almost every Night in the Summer Season. But what graceth this Village most of all, is that royal Foundation for sick, wounded, decayed, or superannuated Soldiers, commonly called *Chelsea-College*, built in the Room of a College, which was designed by King *James I.* for Students

dents in Divinity, who were to make it their whole Business to oppose the Church of *Rome*, incorporating it by the Name of King *James the First's* College, he laying the first Stone of the Building himself; yet, after the Expence of 3000 *l.* and not an eighth Part of the Building finished, or more advanced than the outward Shell, it lay neglected till King *Charles the Second's* Reign, who began the present Royal Hospital, which was continued by King *James the Second*, and finished by King *William* and Queen *Mary*, and is one of the best Foundations of its Kind in the World. The Architect of this noble Structure, was Sir *Christopher Wren*.

31. FROM *Chelsea* to *Westminster*, is almost a continued Garden; in the midst whereof is a Knot of Buildings, called the *NEAT-HOUSES*, chiefly inhabited by Gardeners, who supply a great Part of the City with the Product of the Kitchen-Garden. On the opposite Shore is

32. *VAUXHALL*, noted for its Gardens, and Refort of People of Pleasure in the Summer Season, to hear the musical Entertainment; which, after the *Italian* Manner, is there performed every Evening in the open Air, during the Summer Season. The Neighbourhood of this Place of Pleasure, is very poor, and chiefly inhabited by Watermen, &c. A little to the East is another Village, called

33. *LAMBETH*, which, excepting the Archbishop's Palace, and some few other Gentlemens Houses, is wholly inhabited by Watermen, &c.

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34. *WESTMINSTER-BRIDGE*, from *Woolstaple*, near the *New-Palace-Yard*, over the *Thames* to *Standgate*, on the opposite Shore, which has been Building ever since *June 1738*, by Vertue of an Act of Parliament passed in 1736, is now near finished ; as it is intended to be a free Bridge, the Expence of it has been defrayed by several Lotteries, enacted for that Purpose by Parliament. It is, and will be, as handsome and compleat a Piece of Architecture, as any of its Kind in all *Europe*, if not the best ; it consists of 13 Arches.

35. *WESTMINSTER*.

36. *LONDON*.

37. *SOUTHWARK*.

HERE having arrived at *Westminster*, and *London*, you see many noble and stately Edifices, erected near to the *Thames* Side ; as likewise in the Borough of *Southwark* ; all which I wont pretend to describe in this short Narrative, but proceed to

38. *LONDON-BRIDGE*, which may properly be called a Village on, or across the River of *Thames* ; its Number of Houses and Trade far exceeding many Corporations in *England*.

39. PASSING through Bridge, the first Place after you have passed *Southwark*, is called *ROTHERHITH*, or *REDRIFF*, contiguous to *Southwark* ; and though neither Incorporated, nor a Market Town, yet is very populous, and chiefly inhabited by such, who have their Dependence on the Navigation of the River.

40. THE same is exactly true of St. *CATHARINES*, *WAPPING*, *SHADWELL*,

WELL and *LIMEHOUSE*, on the opposite or *Middlesex* Shore.

41. FROM *Redriff* you come presently to *DEPTFORD*. This Town is divided into the *Upper* and *Lower* Town, has two Churches, and divides the County of *Surry* from *Kent*: The Two Parts together make it very large; but the upper Part is left inhabited; and there also is his Majesties Dock and Naval Store-houses for building and equipping Ships for the Royal Navy. Here also is another Yard for building Merchant Ships; and good anchoring for Ships of the greatest Burthen, who may ride off here without Danger in the greatest Storm. Here is also a Wet Dock of two Acres for Ships; and another of an Acre and an half for Mafts; besides additional Store-houses, Dwelling-houses, Launches, &c. and above 2000 Workmen, are here constantly employed. The little Ship, in which Sir *Francis Drake* sailed round the World, was, by Queen *Elizabeth's* Order, *A. D.* 1580, laid in a Dock here, for a Monument. Below *Deptford* is the pleasant Town of

42. *GREENWICH*, in former Days *famous* for a Royal Palace, built by *Humphrey* Duke of *Gloucester*, enlarged by King *Henry the Seventh*, and with which Place, his Son, King *Henry the Eighth*, was so delighted, that the Palace was honoured with the Births of the Princesses *Mary* and *Elizabeth*, afterwards successively Queens of *England*. And here died that pious, young Prince, King *Edward the Sixth*: But the Palace was afterwards so much neglected, that King *Charles the Second* pulled it down (after having enlarged the Park,

The CONSERVACY of

Park, walled it about, and planted it after the Designs of the famous Gardiner *Le Nobre*) and began a new Palace here, of which he lived to see the first Wing magnificently finished: But King *William the Third* granted it in 1694, to be converted into a Royal Hospital, for such Persons, who, by Age, Wounds, or other Accidents, were disabled from further Service by Sea, and not in a Condition to maintain themselves; as also for the Widows and Children of such disabled Seamen, and others, that happened to be slain or drowned in the King's Service. For which Purpose, his Majesty did not only grant nine Acres of Ground with the said Royal Palace, but settled 2000 *l. per Annum*, payable out of the *Exchequer* for ever, towards the Re-edifying, perfecting and endowing of the said Hospital, at a Time when he was engaged in an expensive War with *France*, relying for the rest upon the voluntary Assistance, and Contributions of his well disposed Subjects. This great Foundation afterwards met with some Interruptions; but now, at last, it is very near completed, and is the finest Structure of that Kind in *Europe*. On the Top of the Hill, in the Park adjoining to the Hospital, King *Charles the Second* erected a Royal Observatory, and furnished it with all Sorts of Mathematical Instruments for *Astronomical* Observations, and a deep dry Well, for observing the Stars in the Day-time; for which Purpose it was lately inhabited by those celebrated Astronomers Dr. *Flamsteed* and Dr. *Edmond Halley*. The River *Thames* here is very broad, the Channel deep, and the Water,
at

at some very high Spring Tides, is Salt, but in ordinary Tides, sweet and fresh.

43. OPPOSITE to *Greenwich*, is a Neck of Land or *Peninsula*, between *Limehouse* and *Blackwall*, remarkable for its Number of Windmills on the Shore, and its rich Pasture within the Marshes; and it is called the *Isle of Dogs*, as is reported, from a Waterman's murdering a Man in this Place, who had a Dog with him, which would not leave his dead Master, till Hunger constrained him to swim over to *Greenwich*; which being frequently repeated, was observed by the Watermen plying there; who, following the Dog, by that Means discovered the Body of the murdered Man. Soon after, the Dog returning on his accustomed Errand to *Greenwich*, snarled at a Waterman, who sat there, and would not be beaten off, which encouraged the By-standers, who knew of the Murder, to apprehend him, who thereupon confessed the Fact, and, after due Prosecution at Law, was hanged on this Spot.

44. *BLACKWALL*, on the *Middlesex* Shore, is the next Place of Note; where there is a very spacious and safe Wet and Dry Dock for building, rigging, and laying up of Ships, frequently made use of by the Government; and particularly noted for the many and good Ships built and launched there for the Service of the *East India* Company. From this Town you arrive at

45. *WOOLWICH*, on the *Kentish* Shore, and situated on the *Thames* Side, where there are several very fine Yards, Docks, and other Buildings, encompassed with a high Wall, spacious
and

and very convenient, and so prodigiously full of all Sorts of Stores of Timber, Plank, Mafts, Pitch, Tar, and other Naval Provisions, as can hardly be numbered: Besides the Building Yard, here is a large Rope Walk, where the biggest Cables are made for Men of War; and on the East, or lower Part of the Town, is the Gun-Yard, commonly called the *Park*, or the *Gun-Park*, where there is a prodigious Quantity of Cannon of all Sorts, for the Ships of War, every Ships Guns apart, heavy Cannon for Batteries, and Mortars of all Sorts and Sizes; infomuch that there have been laid up at one Time, between 7 and 8000 Pieces of Ordinance, besides Mortars and Shells, almost beyond Number. Here is also the House, where the Firemen and Engineers prepare their Fire-works, Charge Bombs, Carcasses and Granadoes, for the publick Service.

A Guardship usually rides here, especially in the Time of War. The Town of late Years is much enlarged and also beautified; several fine Docks, Rope Yards and capacious Magazines added; and the Royal Foundry for Cannon repaired and improved. The *Thames* here is of a much greater Depth of Water, and a freer Channel than at *Deptford*, and near a Mile over at high Water, which is salt upon the Flood; and as the Channel lies strait East and West for about 3 Miles, the Tide runs very strong, and the River is entirely free from Shoals and Sands, and has seven or eight Fathom of Water; so that the biggest Ships may ride here with Safety, even at low Water. Opposite to this Town is

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HAM-CREEK on the *Essex* Shore.

And

BARKIN-CREEK, where usually ride the Smacks of several Fishermen, who from thence send their Fish in small Boats to *Billingsgate* Market. These Fishing Smacks are very useful Vessels to the Publick upon many Occasions; as particularly in Time of War, they may be used as Press Smacks, running to all the Northern or Western Coasts, to pick up Seamen to man the Navy, when an Expedition is at hand, that requires a sudden Equipment, or may serve as Tenders to particular Men of War, being excellent Sailors; and have been made use of as Machines to blow up fortified Ports, formerly at *St. Malo*, and other Places.

THIS Creek is navigable up to the Town of *Barking* or *Berkingeh*, which is a small Market Town, and but a little higher, and has the River *Robbin* on the West. To this Place *William* the Conqueror, some short Time after his Coronation, retired, till he had erected strong Holds in the City of *London*, to check the Instability and Power of that People; and hither it was, that the two great Earls, *Edwin* of *Mercia*, and *Morcer* of *Northumberland*, came and swore Fealty to him.

THE next remarkable Place on the same Shore, is that where the famous *Breach* (called *DAGGENHAM BREACH*) was that laid near 5000 Acres of Land under Water; but which after Ten Years Inundations, and the Works being several Times blown up, was at last effectually stopped by
Captain

Captain *Perry*, who for several Years had been employed by *Peter the Great*, Emperor of *Russia*, in his Works at *Veroneze*, on the River *Don*.

RAYNHAM CREEK, is likewise on the same Shore; near adjoining to which is the Ferry so called, which is the usual Landing Place for Passengers and Goods sent to *Raynham* Town, a little farther up Land.

ERITH, a small Town on the *Kentish* Shore, is remarkable for little else but Smuggling.

PURFLEET, on the *Essex* Shore, is where the Rivulet *Stifford*, or *Flete*, falls into the *Thames*. It is said, that Queen *Elizabeth* viewing her Fleet here, far unequal in Strength to the *Spanish* Armado, cryed out; *Alas, my poor Fleet!* which gave Name to the Place, as some pretend.

DARTFORD CREEK, on the *Kentish* Shore, which is navigable up to the Town of *Dartford* or *Darentford*, an handsome large Market Town, which lies near the Mouth of the River *Derwent*, which empties itself into the *Thames*; on this River was built the first *Paper Mill* in *England*, by Sir *John Spillman*, in the Reign of King *Charles I*, who granted him a Patent, with a Salary of Two-hundred Pounds, *per Annum*, for his Encouragement: Between *Dartford* and the *Thames*, the *Derwent* receives the little River *Crouch*.

GREENHITHE on the same Shore, is now a small Village of little Account, Mr. *Lambard* says, it was here that *Swane*, King of *Denmark*, landed and encamped himself, but there appearing no Remains of any such For-

Fortifications thereabouts, nor any Tradition of it in our Historians or Geographers, it is most probable, nay almost certain, that tho' *Swane* might Land here, he erected his Camp at *Swanscombe*, a Town lying a little higher up in the Country, honourable among the *Kentish* Men, being the Place where they obtained of *William the Conqueror*, the continuance of their Priviledges and Franchises.

WEST THURROCK lies on the *Essex* Shore; the Parish Church of which stands near the *Thames*; and not far from

GREYS, on the same Side the River, which is called by some *Turrock Magna*, or great *Tburrock*, from which Town are weekly sent to *London* great Numbers of Calves, and Poultry, particularly on its Market Day, which is Day.

NORFLEET, on the *Kentish* Shore, is remarkable for little more, than that there is great Numbers of Hoys, and other Vessels constantly employed in carrying of Chalk Stones to the Limeburners in or near *London*, from the Chalk-Pits that adjoin to it, and *Greenbithe*.

GRAVESEND, lying on the North Side of *Kent*, on the River *Thames*, is an incorporated Town, hath two plentiful Markets on *Wednesdays* and *Saturdays*, with one likewise for Fish on *Sunday* Mornings. This Town is now new built, having, in *August* 1727, been almost all of it burnt down, with the Church; but now makes a much better Appearance, from the Calamity it then underwent.

IT

It is hardly credible what Numbers of People pass here every Tide, as well by Night, as by Day, between this *Town* and *London*; almost all the People of *East-Kent*, when they go for *London*, travel no farther by Land than this *Town*, and then go to *London* in the *Tilt-Boat*, the Passage in which, to and fro, is now made much more commodious and safe for Passengers than before, by an Act of Parliament *, passed in 1736-7, for regulating the Company of Watermen, &c. between *Gravesend* and *Windsor*; and here is an handsome Turret erected, with a Bell, in pursuance of this said Act, to give the Watermen Notice, to put off at every first of Flood for *London*, &c.

ANOTHER Thing in this *Town* worth our Notice is, that all Ships which go to Sea, from *London*, take, as it is said, their Departure from hence; for here all outward bound Ships must stop, come to Anchor, and suffer what they call another *Clearing*; and here a Searcher of the Customs comes on Board, looks over all the Cockets, or Entries of the Cargo, and may, if he pleases, rummage the whole Lading, to see if there are any more Goods than are entered, which however they seldom do, for which Purpose, all outward bound Ships, as has been said, must bring to, which if they do not, one of the Centinels (which are always posted at the Blockhouse erected here, with several Pieces of Cannon on a Platform) fires his Musket, and if the Pilot passes the *Blockhouse*, without bringing

* 10 Geo. II. Cap. 11.

his Ship to, the Centinel fires again, and if the Ship drives on, he fires a third Time; and if the Pilot still persists in Sailing, or does not let go his Anchors, the Gunner of this Fort or *Blockhouse*, fires a Piece of Cannon, though without Ball, and if not complied with, then with a Ball; and this Shot is the Signal to the Fortrefs of *Tilbury*, on the opposite Side the River, which immediately lets fly at the Ship from the Guns on the East Bastion, and afterwards from all the Guns they can bring to bear upon her, which is very dangerous indeed to any Ship to run the Risque of, because the Shot will reach her all the Way to the *Hope*, and round the *Hope-Point*, almost to *Hole-Haven*, though it is said it has been done twice. As for Ships coming in, they all go by here without any Notice taken of them, unless it be to put Waiters on board. Directly opposite to this Town is,

TILBURY FORT, or *West Tilbury*, on the *Essex* Shore, and opposite to the *Blockhouse* at *Gravesend*, and may be looked upon as the Key to the City of *London*. It is a regular Fortification; the Design of it was a Pentagon, but the Water Bastion, as it would have been called, was never built: The Plan was laid out by Sir *Martin Beckman*, chief Engineer to King *Charles the Second*, who likewise designed the Works at *Sheerness*.

THE Esplanade of the Fort is very large, and the Bastions are the largest of any in *England*. The Foundation is laid on Piles, driven down, two at an End of one another, so far, till they were assured that they were below the Channel of the River, and that the Piles, which

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were

were pointed with Iron, entered into the solid Chalk Rock, adjoining to the Chalk Hills on the other Side.

THE Works to the Land Side are compleat ; the Bastions are faced with Brick ; there is a double Ditch or Moat, the innermost of which is 180 Feet broad ; a good Counterscarp and a Covered Way, marked out with *Ravelines* and *Tenailles* ; but they have not been compleated : There is also, on the Land-side several small *Redoubts* of Brick ; but the chief Strength of this Fort, on the Land-side, consists in being able to lay the whole Level under Water, and so to make it impossible for an Enemy to carry on an Approach that Way.

ON the Side next the River is a very strong *Curtain*, with a fine Gate called the *Water Gate*, in the Middle, and the Ditch is palli-fadoed, at the Place the *Water Bastion* was designed to be built, and which, by the Plan, should run out wholly into the River, so to flank the two Curtains : On each Side stands an high Tower, which is said to be built in Queen *Elizabeth's* Time, and was called the *Block-house* ; the Side next the Water is vacant.

BEFORE this Curtain, above and below the said Vacancy, is a *Platform*, in the Place of a *Counterscarp*, on which are planted 106 Cannon, generally carrying from 24 to 46 Pound Ball ; a Battery as terrible as important to the Place : Besides which, there are smaller Pieces planted between, and the Bastions and Curtain also are planted with Guns ; so that they must be daring Men who will venture, in the largest Ships,

Ships, to pass such a Battery. A little below this is,

EAST TILBURY, where the River begins to widen towards the Mouth; and here it was, that Queen *Elizabeth*, having had Notice from the *French* King of the Invasion intended by the *Spaniards*, formed a Camp of twenty-two thousand Foot, and one thousand five-hundred Horse, under the Command of *Robert Dudley*, Earl of *Leicester*, which lay here to oppose their sailing up the *Thames*, and landing in those Parts. *A. D.* 1588.

THE HOPE, a Place where Merchants Ships usually Ride, and wait for their Lading and Dispatches, and which begins at or opposite to *East Tilbury*, and terminates opposite to *Cunningham*.

MUCKING, a Town a little below *East Tilbury*, to which the *Thames* is navigable by a Creek called *Mucking Creek*.

CANVEY ISLE, about 5 Miles in Length, from *Hole Haven* to *Leigh*; it lies low, and so is sometimes overflowed by the Tide; but the Sheep, which are fed there in abundance, so readily retreat to some Hills in it, that few are lost; a little below this Island, or rather opposite to the lower End of it is a small Town called

LEIGH, or *Lee*, of little or no Account, otherwise than that it is well stocked with Fishermen and Seamen, and likewise that about two Mile below this Town, the Jurisdiction of *London* on the *Essex* Side the River, terminates at a Place called *Crow Stone*, where there was a Mark Stone, but by some Accident it has been lost for these several Years past.

The CONSERVACY of

So I shall now return to the *Kentish* Side of the River; and the next Place worth Notice below *Gravesend*, is a Place in the River, called,

BLYTHSAND, which is opposite to *Hole Haven*, and is dry at Low Water, for the extent of two Miles; within this is a Place called *Fish Nash*; and below this another Place in the River, called,

THE ROSS, which is a Hill of Shells that is covered only at high Water; and the next Place below this is

YAUNTLETT CREEK, from which runs a Bank of Shells to *Granes-spitt* End, which is three Miles in extent, and leads round into the River *Medway*. Within this Creek (adjoining to the *Thames*) is a Publick House, where Fishermen that draw the Shores usually resort, and who, by this illegal Manner of Fishing, annually destroy infinite Numbers of unsizeable Smelts, and other Fish hereabouts, and all up the South Shore.

THE Isle of SHEPWAY is, as it were, opposite to the extreme Part of *Granes-spitt* End, which is separated from the rest of the County of *Kent* by the *Medway*, which here divides itself into two Streams, and encompasseth it, falling into the Estuary of the *Thames* by two Mouths, the one lying Westward, called *West-swale*; the other Eastward, called *East-swale*. It is 22 Miles in Compass.

SHEERNESS FORT, in this Island, built for the Security of the River *Medway*, and the *Thames* Mouth, is very strong, and entirely new erected.

ON

ON the Half Moon are planted 40 large Cannon, and round the Works are Embrasures for 74 Pieces more, with Watch Towers at proper Distances; the *Avant-Fosse*, or Ditch of the Counterscarp, was finished last Summer (1744.) and can be filled with Water from several Places, at a very short Notice. In the Fort is a Chapel for the Garrison, which is very large, and Warehouses for the Use of the Dock, furnished with all Necessaries for fitting out Ships at a small Warning: And on the South West Part of this Island stands by the *Medway* Side,

QUEENBOROUGH, which sends Members to Parliament, and had once a Castle and several Blockhouses, which have since been demolished; and the Place now is of but little Account, unless for Oyster Fishers and Alehouse Keepers. On the West Side this River *Medway*, is a Place called the

SALT PANNES, where great Quantity of Salt is made, both for Home Consumption and foreign Exportation

FARTHER, on the same Side the River, is a Place called the *SWAMP*, or King *James's* Folly, which is a strong Fort mounting 12 Guns, and it was designed to have made this one of the strongest Fortresses in *England*, had not that Prince abdicated. On the other Side the *Medway* stands

GILLINGHAM, antiently a Market Town, and where stands a strong Fort, to which large Additions are making, there being 170 Embrasures for holding Cannon, which will be so great a Security to this River, that should an Enemy ever make Way

The CONSERVACY of

by *Sheerneys Fort*, his progress would be stopped before he could reach *Chatham*. On the West Side the River stands

COCKHAM WOOD Fort, where 34 Guns are mounted; but it is not plainly seen by Passengers sailing by, being wholly encompassed by the Wood; but it is a Place of great Security and Strength.

AND near to this Wood, by the River Side, adjoining a sandy Lane, is a large square Stone, set erect in the Ground, on the upper Sides of which is engraved these Words, GOD PRESERVE THE CITY OF LONDON; which Stone is here placed to shew the Extent of the said Cities Jurisdiction up the River *Medway*. Here I might describe *UP NOR CASTLE*, adjoining to this Wood, which guards two Reaches of this River, as likewise *CHATHAM*, on the other Side the River, whose Docks for building Ships, Arsenals, Store-houses, Launches, Malt-houses, Boat-houses, Boat-yards, Anchor-yards, Forges, Foundaries, Canals, and Ditches, for preserving the Masts and Yards, in the Water, are the largest in Dimension, and the most in Number, that are any where to be seen; in short, there is not a more compleat Arsenal than this in the whole World.

THE Rivers that empty themselves into the *Thames*, within the Jurisdiction are these: Above Bridge you have

Brentford River, North Side the *Thames*.

Hounslow River, N.

Coln River, N.

Uxbridge River, N.

Lasingham

Lasingham River, S. has its Waters from *Bromley* River.

Wandsworth River, S. supplied with Water that comes from

Martin River, S. fed by

Mitcham River, S. is supplied by Water from

Carshalton River, S.

Moulsey River.

Esher River.

Cobham River.

Weybridge River, is supplied by two other Rivers, viz. *Fleet* River, S. which comes from *Guilford* River; and the *New* River, which is made by Art from *Guilford* to *Weybridge*.

RIVERS below *London Bridge*, within the Jurisdiction, are

Ilford River, N.

Woodford River, North Side the *Thames*.

Stratford River, N.

Bow River, N.

Hackney River, N.

Waltham River, N.

New River, N.

Deptford River, S.

A Description of the River Lea, or Lee.

THUS far I have confined myself purely to the River of *Thames*; but as the City's Power of Conservancy will be found to extend also into the River *Lee* and Waters of *Medway*, it will now be necessary with the same Brevity, to give you a Description of those two Streams.

The CONSERVACY of

THE *Lee* or *Lea*, which falls into the *Thames* a little to the Eastward of *Blackwall*, and about five Miles below *London Bridge*, though it riseth so high as *Luton* in *Bedfordshire*, does not become navigable till * it has received several other Rivulets, and is arrived at *Ware* in *Hertfordshire*, about twenty Miles from *London*: But perchance few navigable Rivers of its Contents can boast of greater Utility, not only to the adjacent, rich and populous Villages on its neighbouring Shores, but to the great Metropolis of the Nation also, which, by this Stream, is supplied with vast Quantities of all Sorts of Grain, and incredible Quantities of Malt.

AFTER this River has past *Waltham Abbey*, where King *Harold* was buried by the Courtesy of *William the Conqueror*, who had slain him in the Field of Battle; it serves as a Boundary between *Middlesex* and *Essex*. The City Jurisdiction in this River reaches no farther than the End of what is called the *New Cutt*, which is only about a Mile above the Bridge at *Temple Mills*, or about four Miles up the River.

A Description of the River Medway.

THE *Medway*, which riseth in *Ash-Down Forest*, *Sussex*, on the South West of *East Grimstead*; from whence it passeth by *Penshurst*, *Tunbridge*, *Maidstone* and *Rocheſter*, and falling into the *Thames*, is divided, at the

* See the Statute 13 *Elizabeth*, Cap. xviii, concerning the making of this River navigable.

Mouth into two Channels by the Isle of *Shepway*; that to the Eastward taking the Name of the *East Swale*; and that to the Westward falling into the Mouth of the *Thames*, the *West Swale*, which, being the principal Entrance into this River, is defended by the Fort of *Sheerness*, much better fortified now than it was when the *Dutch* sailed up, and burnt Part of the Royal Navy at *Chatham*.

In this River, whose Mouth is almost like the *Thames*, choaked up with sand Banks, is ~~where~~ a most secure and commodious Harbour for Ships of the greatest Burthen as far as *Chatham*. It also abounds with Salmon, the largest Flounders, with Plaice, Mulletts, Whittings, Smelts, Eels, Perch, Trout, Carp, Tench, Bream, Chub, Roach, Dace and Gudgeons, in abundance, beside Oysters, of which there is the finest in the World, especially towards *Milton* and *Faversham*.

AFTER this Survey and History of the Rivers of *Thames*, *Medway* and *Lee*: We The *Au* now proceed to consider under what *Authori- th rity* and *Jurisdiction* they are settled: And this *and Juris- diction of* will appear to be placed in the Lord Mayor, the City Commonalty and Citizens of *London*. For of *London* not only the Water of the *Thames*, with the *on the Thames,* Fish therein, has been confirmed to Them by *&c. pro-* divers Grants, Charters and Acts of Parlia- ved. ment; ' but by their special Suit, the King ' gave therewithal the Ground and Soil under ' the same; so that whoever hath House or ' Land adjoining, and maketh a Stand, Stairs, ' or such like, they pay forthwith a Rent to ' the City of *London*, how high soever they ' be

‘ be above the *Low-Water-Mark*^a.’ Therefore the City, at this Day, by Virtue of this Grant, receives Rents of them that fix *Posts*, or make *Wharfs*, or other Buildings, upon the Soil of the said River^b. And as a further Proof of this Jurisdiction, ‘ the Sheriffs ‘ of *London*, for the Time being, have a ‘ Power to *Arrest* and do *Executions* in the said ‘ *Water of Thames*, so far as the Bounds of ‘ the Freedom of the City do stretch^c;’ yet thus notwithstanding it can be proved, that the *Thames* Water, so far as the Bounds of the Freedom of the City doth stretch, is a Parcel of the City, and that every *Appurtenance* within the said Franchise, has always been governed by the same City, as a Parcel of the same City, as well the one Part of the Water as the other^d; the Lord High Admiral of *England* has contested ‘ the City’s Jurisdiction, but with no other Success than to strengthen the Authority which the Lord Mayor had so justly claimed, and to confirm him by a proper Verdict the Conservator of the River *Thames* and *Medway*^e, with an absolute Power to inflict Punishments for all unlawful Filhings, either by Fishermen or others; and for all Abuse of his Authority.

^a See *Strype’s Survey*, p 4. and *Brydall’s Chamera Regis.*

^b *Davy’s Reports, Le Case Royal Pischary.*

^c *Calthorp*, in his Reports of *Special Cases in the Customs of London*, pag.

^d See *Calthorp*, as before cited, and *City Law*, pag.

^e In the 39 *Eliz. A. D.* 1596.

N. B. This Contest began in the Mayoralty of *Thomas Skinner* and *Sir Henry Billingsly*, and all Variances were absolutely determined on 20 *May*, 1613, when *Sir John Swinnerton* was Lord Mayor.

^f See the *City Charter*.

THIS Jurisdiction and Power being thus adjudged; we are to consider in what Manner the Conservator of the River of *Thames* doth exercise the same; which has at all Times been executed by a Deputy or Substitute, commonly called the *Water Bailiff* of *London*^a, who, under his Authority, and by Virtue of his absolute Power^b, searches, oversees and punisheth all that offend against his Orders for the Conservation of the City's Right to the said River, and make Spoil of what was intended for general Benefit. Consequently the Power that is lodged in the Lord Mayor of *London*, as Conservator of the River of *Thames*, is legally executed by the *Water Bailiff*, his Deputy. Now

The Institution of a Water Bailiff.

THE Power of the Lord Mayor, as Conservator of the River of *Thames*, is confirmed from his Care both for the Safety of Passengers on the River, and the Preservation of the Breed, and Fry and Fish in the River, by Precedents of great Antiquity: For, in the Year 1405, Sir *John Woodcock*, Mayor, being informed that great Number of *Wears* had been erected in the said River, to the Destruction of the young Fry, and the Damage of Navigation, caused all the said *Wears* from *Stains* Bridge to the River *Medway*, to be destroyed, and the Nets burnt, which, by Virtue of the City Charter, was judged lawful against the Opposition made thereto by the Archbishop of *Canterbury*, &c.^c. But to

^a See the Statute of 13 *Edw.* I. and 13 *Rich.* II. 10 *Eliz.* Cap. viii 9 *Anne*, Cap. xxvi.

^b See 13 *Richard* II.

^c See *Fabian's Chronicle*, pag. 7.

avoid any further Inconveniencies and Opposition for the future in the due Execution of the said Office ; the City petitions the Parliament to remove all *Kiddles*, ^a *Wears*, *Fishgarths*, *Stanks*, *Milnes*, *Stakes*, &c. in the River of *Thames*, *Medway* and *Lea* ; by which Parliament ^b the Mayor and Citizens were empowered vigorously to execute all the Statutes in force against all such Offenders, and that in all Commissions relating to the *Water Bailiff*, the *Mayor* or *Custos* always to be one. And this Power seemed so necessary for the publick Good, and so well lodged, that when Sir *John Branch*, Lord Mayor elect, came to be sworn into his Office, the Lord Treasurer *Burleigh*, particularly recommends to him the Conservation of the River of *Thames* ; mentioning first the City's Right to the Jurisdiction thereof from *London Bridge* to *Stains* ; and then adding, that her Majesty, Queen *Elizabeth*, was grieved, that the Navigation thereof was impeded by *Hatches*, *Stopps* and *Wears* ; and the Fry of *Fish* destroyed, and made Meat for Swine, &c. and did find fault with those Things called *Trinckers*, which, her Pleasure was, that the Lord Mayor should cause to be redressed, &c. Hence

It is rational to infer, that the Crown acknowledged this Jurisdiction in the City of *London* ; and that the Conservator has a Right and Power to punish those that make Havock of the young Fry, or that encroach upon the

^a See the City Charter in 2 *Edw.* III. *A. D.* 1328.

^b See *Cott. Abridg. Rec.*

^c See the Act 27 *Hen.* VIII. Cap. xviii. *A. D.* 1535. See the Statute 4 *Hen.* VII. Cap. xv.

Soil of the said River, that cast in Dung or other Filth, and that dig and undermine the Banks and Walls next to the said River, and carry and convey away the Washides, Shore Piles, Boards, Timber-work, Ballast for Ships, and other Things, from the Banks and Walls of the said River in fundry Places *. Wherefore the said Lord Mayor having represented the same to his first Court of Aldermen †, it was ordered, that the *Water-Bailiff* should be called, and commanded to deliver in Writing, a true, distinct, and particular Report of the State of the River, and how her Majesties late Commandment hath been executed according to the Laws of this Realm, and *Right* of the City. And for the Matters of *Trinckers*, he shall likewise enquire by all lawful Means, and certify this Court of the Quality of those *Trinckers*, their Numbers, their Places, and Manner of Fishing; what Harm they do; how and in what Sort they may and ought to be reformed: And for all other Matters pertaining to this City, to redress touching the River, and the *Navigableness* and *Fishing* thereof, he shall truly inform: That for such Things as **be** within the Power of this City to amend, Remedy be given speedily; and for the rest, Suit be made to her Majesty and her Council, and Reformation sought by Order of her Majesty's Laws: And for this Service, and the more speedy doing thereof, it is ordered, That *Anthony Hall* be required

*Order.
Court of
Aldermen
for the
better Pre-
servation
of the
River
Thames.
An Assist-
ant ap-
pointed to
the Water
Bailiff.*

* See the Act of 27 Hen. VIII. Cap. xviii.

† On the 3d November, 1580.

to be Assistant to the said *Water-Bailiff*, with his Travail and Diligence; and that at such Times yearly as the *Water-Bailiff* goeth up with Citizens for View of the *Thames*, the said *Anthony Hall* shall always be one of the said Citizens.

WHICH Diligence and Care was again several Times revived; for in *September*, 1584, Sir *Thomas Pullinson*, Lord Mayor, the following Orders were set forth.

Sir Tho.
Pulling-
son's Or-
ders.

* *First*, THAT there should be no Perprestures, Encroachments, Wharves, Banks, Walls, or Buildings of Houses in or upon the *Thames*, to the stopping of the Passage.

Item, THAT no Dung, Rubbish, or other Filth, be Cast into the *Thames*.

Item, THAT no Posts or Stakes be fixed in the *Thames*.

Item, THAT the fair Way be kept as deep and large as heretofore it hath been.

No Person shall sell, utter, or take any Fish, contrary to the antient Assize set down by Decree; viz.

Pyke 14 Inches; *Barbel* 12 Inches; *Salmon* 16 Inches; *Trout* 8 Inches; *Tench* 8 Inches; *Roach* 6 Inches; *Dace* 6 Inches; *Flounders* 6 Inches; but *Carp*, *Aloes*, *Chevin*, *Pearch*, *Eels*, *Gudgeons*, *Smelts*, *Bleaks*, *Shad*, *Mackerel*, *Lampreis*, *Lamprons*, are not yet assized.

* Sir *Thomas Pullinson*, Mayor. See *Strype*, 1 Vol. pag. 41.

FENCE Month and Times, in which these Times of
Fishes are not to be taken; viz. for Fishing.

Salmons; between the *Nativity* of our
Lord, and *St. Martins*.

Kipper Salmons; not to be taken at any
Time of the Year.

Trout; between *Michaelmas* and *Christmas*.

Roaches; between 15 Days before *St. Mar-*
tins, and 15 Days after.

Lampreis and *Lamprons*, between 15 *April*
and 15 *August*.

No *Fishermen*, *Garthmen*, *Petermen*, *Dray-*
men, or *Trinkermen*, shall avaunce or set up
any *Wears*, *Engines*, *Rowte Wears*, *Pight*
Wears, *Foot Wears*, nor make any *Stalker*
Nets, *Trynk Nets*, *Purse Nets*, *Casting Nets*,
Berd Nets, *Pot Nets*, *Barrock Nets* at *Crooks*,
Heaving Nets, except they be 2 Inches in the
Meish.

NETS forbidden; also the Measure of cer- *Nets for-*
tain *Nets*. bidden.

Blee Nets, must be two Inches and a half.

Dray Nets and *Kiddels*, forbidden.

Cod Nets, to be used between *Candlemas* and
our *Lady-Day*.

Treat Nets, *Peter Nets*, must be two Inches
large in the Meish, except between *Candlemas*
and our *Lady-Day* in *Lent*.

Apride Net, not to be occupied but by spe-
cial Licence of the *Water-Bailiff*, and not
above a Yard in Length.

PLACES inhibited to Fish in, called *Water* Where it
Friths; viz. is unlaw-
ful to fish.

Mill Dams, *Locks*, and such like.

Goose Fleet, at *Bujberd*.

Well Fleet, at the *Mase*.

St.

St. Saviours Milne by *West*.

Baits prohibited.

BAITS prohibited.

White Bait at *Gowlch*, or Blood Bag.

BUT these Orders were more strongly enforced by those which Sir *Robert Ducie* afterwards set forth by this Title.

ORDERS heretofore devised and agreed upon by the Right Honourable * the Lord Mayor of the City of London, and Conservator of the River of Thames, and Waters of Medway, and River Lee, for Conservation and Preservation of the River of Thames, and of the Brood and Fry of Fish therein, as followeth.

Sir Robert
Ducie's
Orders.

FIRST, THAT no Man, upon Penalty and Forfeiture of his Net, and Ten Pounds, with Imprisonment at the Discretion of the Lord Mayor, shall presume to shute any Draw-Net or Coulter-Net, at any Time of the Year before Sun-rising, nor after Sun-setting : For that in the Night-time unlawful Nets may be used, and great Abuses offered, to the great Hurt and Annoyance of the said River of *Thames* : And to shute in their several Rooms well known.

2. Item, THAT no Fisherman or other shall still, lye, or bend-over any Net during the Time of the Flood, whereby both Salmons, and other Kinds of Fish, may be hindred and kept back from swimming upwards, to the

* Sir Robert Ducie Mayor. 1630. & 6 Car. I.

Benefit and Profit of such Fishermen as dwell in the West Part of the said River, upon the like Pain and Penalty.

3. *Item*, THAT no Fisherman, or other, shall shute any Draw-Net, Cord-Net, or other Net or Engine, whereby any Salmon Fish shall be taken, after *Holyrood Day* is past, being the 14th Day of *September*, because at that Time they are out of Season, and remain here upon the River only to spawn and breed : Upon the like Payment.

No Fisherman or other, shall shute any Net after the 14th of *September*.

4. *Item*, THAT no Fisherman, or other, shall fish with any Net, or lay or hale any Weel, or use any other Net or Engine whatsoever, from Sun-setting on *Saturday Night* until Sun-rising upon *Monday Morning*, no, nor during all the Time of *Lent*, as being a Thing not only very hurtful to the said River, but also a great Abuse and Profaning of the Lord's Sabbath : Upon the like Penalty.

No Fisherman or other, shall fish from Sun setting on *Saturday Night*, until Sun rising on *Monday*.

5. *Item*, THAT no Fisherman, or other, shall at any Time hereafter ship their Draw-Nets (called *Shipping a-stern*) into their Boats, before such Time as they have laid forth all their whole Net, as they do when they Land towards a Low Water ; nor that they ship some Part of their said Net, and land the Rest ; but that from henceforth they shall fulfil and observe that ancient Order of landing their Nets (as they have heretofore usually done) at Low Water ; upon the like Payment.

No Fisherman or other, shall ship their DrawNets before they have laid forth their whole Net.

6. *Item*, THAT no Fisherman, or other Person whatsoever, shall use any Speer called an *Eel-Speer*, at any Time of the Year, for that they are likewise very great Destroy-

No Fisherman or other, to use any Spear ; nor work with any

Bley-Net,
Rug-Net,
or Smelt-
Net, west-
ward, far-
ther than
Isleworth
Church,
&c.

No Fisher-
man, or
other, shall
use any
Flue,
Trammel,
double-
walled
Net, or
hooped
Net.

No Fisher-
man, or
other Per-
son, shall
lay any
Weels in
any Place
of the Ri-
ver, from
March 10,
to May 10,
yearly.

No Fisher-
man, or o-
ther, shall
shute any
Weel, cal-
led a
Lomb, or
a Mill-Pot,
&c.

ers of Barbels, and other Kind of Fish; nor shall work with any Bley-Net, Rug-Net, or Smelt-Net, upon the said Water Westward, farther then *Isleworth* Church, from the 10th Day of *March* yearly, until *Holyrood Day* be past, being the 14th Day of *September*; upon the like Payment.

7. *Item,* THAT no Fisherman, or other, shall at any Time of the Year use or exercise any Flue, Trammel, double-walled Net, or hooped Net whatsoever, for that they are not only the utter Destruction of all breeding Barbels, and also a great Spoil and hurt to other Sorts of the young Brood and fry of Fish, being with those Kinds of Nets infinitely destroyed, to the general Ruin of the River aforesaid; upon the like Payment.

8. *Item,* THAT no Fisherman, or other, shall lay any Weels called *Kills*, in any Place of the River, from the 10th of *March*, till the 10th of *May* yearly, for that all Roaches do then shed their Spawn; nor that no Man whatsoever cut any Bulrushes, or other Flags or Sedges growing upon the River, from *Richmond* unto the *Markstone* above *Stains* Bridge, for that they are a great Succour and Safeguard unto the Fish; upon the like Payment.

9. *Item,* No Fisherman, or other, shall use, within the said River of *Thames*, any Weel called a *Lomb*, or a *Mill-Pot*, or any other Engine, with the Head thereof against the Stream, upon Pain or Forfeiture of Ten Pounds, and Imprisonment at the Discretion of the Lord Mayor; nor that no Man whatsoever shall occupy upon the said River of

Thames

Thames any Nets called *Purse-Nets*, otherwise *Casting-Nets*; upon the like Payment.

10. *Item*, THAT no Fisherman, or other, shall be suffered to rug for Flounders, either by Ebb or by Flood, at any Time of the Year, between *London Bridge* and *Stangate*, on the South-side, and *Westminster Bridge* on the North-side, but only two Casts at Low Water, and two Casts at full Sea, or High Water, for the Safeguard of the Fry and Brood of Fish: And no Flounder shall be taken under the Assize of six Inches; nor that no Fisherman, or other, shall fleet with any Bley-Net upon the Benches from *Whitehall* to the *Temple Stairs*, upon high Waters, from *Whitsuntide* to *Bartbolomew-tide*; upon the like Payment.

No Fisherman, or other, shall rug for Flounders, either by Ebb or Flood, between *London Bridge* and *Stangate*; but only two Casts at low Water, and two Casts at full Sea, &c.

11. *Item*, THAT no Fisherman, or other Person whatsoever, shall cast, bring, or cause to be brought any Carrion, Soil, Gravel, Rubbish, Sods of Earth, or any other Filth, or Annoyance, whereby Banks and Shelves are raised, and the common Passage hindered, to the great Danger of Fares; Boats and Barges, passing to and fro upon the said River: Nor that no Fisherman, or other, shall drive or cause to be driven any Piles, Stumps or Stalks, within the said River of *Thames*, upon which the like Mischief and Dangers may arise; upon the like Pain and Penalty as aforesaid.

No Person to cast any Carrion, &c. into the River.

12. *Item*, THAT no Fisherman, or other, shall presume to take up any Rack or Drift upon the Water of *Thames*, without Notice given to the Water Bailiff or his Substitute, within convenient Time, he satisfying him

No Fisherman, or other, to take up any Drift or Wreck, for without

giving
Notice to
the *Water*
Bailiff, or
his Substi-
tute.

for his Pains, as shall be reasonable and thought fitting; nor shall conceal and keep secret the said Rack or Drift from the said Water Bailiff, to the End that such Order and Care may be taken therein, as hath been accustomed, according to the Laws and Ordinances ordained for the Preservation of the said River; upon the like Pain and Penalty, from the 10th of *March* to the first of *May*, or at any other Time.

No Fisher-
man, or
other, shall
fish with
any Net,
or use any
Angled
Rod, with
more than
one Hook
upon a
Line; nor
search for
Barbel,
&c.

No *Peter-*
man shall
fish upon
the *Water*
westward,
farther
than *Rich-*
mond
Crane.

That no
Peter-man
take the
Tides a-
bove *Rich-*

13. *Item*, THAT no Fisherman, or other, shall fish with any Kind of Net, or use any Angle Rod with more than one Hook upon a Line, or saw or search for Barbel within the Limits of *London* Bridge, or shall use any other Engine nearer unto the Bridge than *St. Botolph's Wharf* and the *Bridgehouse Wharf* on the East-side, nor nearer on the West-side than *St. Mary-Overies-Stairs* and the *Old Swan*, upon the Pain of Imprisonment, at the Discretion of the Lord Mayor, and 6 s. 8 d. to the Chamber of *London*.

14. THAT no *Peter-men* shall at any Time hereafter fish or work with any Manner of Net upon the said *Water* westward, farther than *Richmond Crane*, unto which Place, or thereabouts, the *Water* ebbeth and floweth, for that the fishing beyond that Place hath caused a great Destruction of Fish; upon Pain of Forfeiture of 20 s. for every Time they shall so offend, and farther Punishment, according to the Quality of his Offence.

15. *Item*, IT is ordered, that no *Peter-man* shall hereafter, at any Time of the Year take the Tides above *Richmond*, nor go in Company together, it being found very prejudicial

judicial and hurtful both to the River and Fishermen, and nothing available for the furnishing of any Markets, nor shall go to fish more than five together in one Company between *Richmond* and *London Bridge*; upon Pain of forfeiting for every Crime 10 s. and imprisonment during Pleasure.

16. *Item*, THAT no *Peter-man*, or any other, That no take any Flounders, or any other short Fish *Peter-man*, which they have usually called *Kettle-Fish*, or any other, take not being six Inches of Assize, being found any Flounders, &c. to be the great Destruction of the Fish; upon the like Penalty and Pain.

17. *Item*, THAT whereas many Inconveniences have heretofore risen to the River of *Thames*, by divers Fishermens keeping of Boys, who had neither the Sufficiency to take the Charge of Fishing, nor bound Apprentices to the same: Therefore from henceforth it shall not be lawful for any Fisherman to keep two Boys in one Boat, unless the one of them be at Man's Estate, or thought sufficient by the *Water Bailiff* to take the Charge, or else that one of them be an Owner: Nor that no Fisherman from henceforth do take any Apprentice to the said Trade of Fishing, unless he first enters his Name in the Register Book of the *Water Bailiff* of this City kept for that Purpose, nor under the Term of seven Years, and that after the Expiration of the said Term, he likewise come again before the said *Water Bailiff*, to be by him admitted a lawful Fisherman, (as of ancient Time hath been accustomed;) upon like Payment.

18. *Item*, THAT no Person whatsoever, That no from *Stains Bridge* in the West, to *Yendal*, Person from

Stains alias *Yenlet*, in the East, do fasten, lay or
 Bridge to cause to be laid in any Part of the River
Yenlet, do of *Thames*, any more or greater Number
 fasten any than two Vessels, or two Barges, or two
 more than Lighters abreast, at any Yard, Wharf, Dock,
 two Vessels Road or Chain, or in any other Place what-
 abreast. soever, in or upon the River of *Thames*,
 nor pretend to fasten or stop a Tide, to make
 any more or greater Number in any Place
 whatsoever.

That no Person shall lay any Timber at any Road, Wharf, or Yard. 19. *Item*, NOR that no Person lay, or cause to be laid, or continue any Timber at any Road, Wharf, or Yard, within the River of *Thames*; by reason whereof it is, and has often been very prejudicial and dangerous by Night and Day, to the Passage of the King's Subjects, and to the great hindrance of Boats and Barges passing and repassing upon the said River of *Thames*.

That no Person shall make or continue any Wharf, Building, Potgallery, &c. 20. *Item*, THAT no Person do make or continue any Wharf, Building, Potgallery, or other Purpresture, or Incroachment into, upon, or over any Part of the Soil of the said River, whereby the said River may be in the least diminished, nor any Way annoy or prejudice the said River, or the common Passage therein, or hurt the Banks thereof.

Fishermen to appear at the Chapel of Guildball, on every St. Paul's Day. 21. *Lastly*, THAT every Fisherman upon the River of *Thames*, from *London Bridge* unto *Stains Bridge*, shall once every Year, (*viz.* upon *St. Paul's Day*, being the 25th Day of *January*) appear before the *Water Bailiff* of this City, at the Chapel of the *Guildball*, by Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon of the same Day, there to enter their several Names into his Register Book kept for

for that Purpose; and farther, to hear the Orders and Institutions ordained for the Preservation of the said River, to be openly and publickly read, to the Intent that they and every of them, may the better perform the same, upon Pain of 6 s. 8 d. for every Default so made. And if any Man whatsoever, Fisherman, or other, shall contemptuously or stubbornly resist the *Water Bailiff*, being Sub-Conservator under the Lord Mayor, in the due Performance and Execution of his said Office, he shall make such Fine, or be imprisoned at the Discretion of the Lord Mayor for the Time being, as unto his Lordship shall seem most fitting.

By the same Lord Mayor, the following Articles were ordained to be enquired upon by the Jury for the River of Thames Eastward. For the Conservation and Preservation of the River of Thames, and of the Brood and Fry of Fish within the same, as followeth :

IMPRIMIS, You shall faithfully and truly present (without any respect) all such Persons, Fishermen, and others, as do profane the Lord's Sabbath in their unlawful Fishings, and going forth that Day to their Labour, being to the high Displeasure of Almighty God, and availeth not to the furnishing of any Market. And if any such Fisherman have gone forth to fish, having been at Home, before Sunday at Night,

Trincker-
man to be
presented
for profa-
ning the
Sabbath-
Day.

(Sun down) you shall faithfully and truly present them.

No Trinckerman to stand for Smelts till October 21, and continue till Good Friday following.

2. *Item*, THAT no Trincker shall stand for Smelts till the 21st Day of *October* yearly, and so to continue until *Good Friday* following. And to use no Manner of Net for Smelts than full two Inches in the Forepart, Inch and half in the second Part, and in the third Part, which is the Hole or Cod, Inch and Quarter wet and dry: And the Hose not to exceed eleven Feet in length, and in compass sixty Meishes, and not above: And five Hoops, placed a Foot and a half a funder in the said Cod, the Hoop to be placed within two Feet of the End of the Cod, and each Hoop to be a Foot and a half over every Way, upright within the Hoop, and not otherwise.

No Trinck to stand above nine Tides in a Week, except in *Lent*.

3. *Item*, THAT no Trinck shall stand to fish above nine Tides in the Week, viz. three Tides against *Wednesday*, three Tides against *Friday*, and three Tides against *Saturday Market*, and so likewise three Tides against *Saint's Eves*, and other Fasting Days; and then to wash, hale up and go home with their said Nets and Boats, every *Saturday Morning* to their own Houses. And in *Lent* Time, they may stand every Day, the Sabbath-day excepted.

Trinckerman to keep his Cooplement, and observe the following Orders.

4. *Item*, THAT no Trinck shall stand in any Birth more than is allowed him to stand, but shall stand in all such several Places, and in such Manner as hereafter followeth, and in no other Place, that is to say, he shall keep his Cooplement.

At

AT *Blackwall Ferry*, two, one Breast or Front, and no more.

AT *Ley Shelp* two, and no more.

AT *Woolwich Shelp* two, and no more.

AT *Woolwich Town* five, and no more.

AT *Gallions Nasse* three, and no more.

AT *Busard's Bush* five, and no more.

AT the East and West End of *Barking Shelp*, two at each Place, and no more.

AT *Dagnam Shelp* six, and no more.

AT the *Carrick* four, and no more.

AT *Julian-tree Job* three, and no more.

AT *Dartford Job* three, and no more.

AT the *Bright at Erith Nasse*, three and no more.

AT *Stoke-fleet Nasse*, alias *Stakes-end*, five, and no more.

AT *Evely Hole*, five, and no more.

AT *Purfleet*, five, and no more.

AT *Gray's Thorock*, six, and no more.

AT the *Two Thoroughs*, three, and no more.

AND every Trink to keep his true Complement, and to stand no more in a Birth.

5. Item, THAT no Trink shall stand to fish for Whittings till the Ember Week before *Michaelmas* yearly, and to come no higher than *Purfleet*, and to have the Hise or Cod of his Net full Inch and half. And upon *Saturday* Sun set, to wash off his Net, hale up and go home, and not to return to his Labour again till *Monday* Morning Day-light: And so likewise shall every Fisherman do from *London* Bridge Westward, to *Gravesend* Bridge in the East, and not otherwise.

Times and Orders to fish for Whittings.

6. Item,

Orders
how
Trincker-
men are
to be ad-
mitted.

6. *Item*, THAT no Trinckerman, or other Fisherman, shall buy any Trinck, or take or receive any Copy, under the Seal of the Office of Mayoralty, until he be allowed and thought fit by the Lord Mayor of *London*, or by his Substitute the *Water Bailiff* for the Time being, with the general Liking and Consents of the said Company of Trinckermen, and seventeen Trincks allowed, and no more.

No Trinck
to keep
his Birth,
contrary
to antient
Order and
Custom.

7. *Item*, THAT no Trinck shall stand to fish before any Breach Mouth at the rising or sinking of any Mother-Fishes, or in the Time of Spawn or Brood of Fish; and that every Trinck shall, at all Times and Seasons, take up and carry away his Anchor at his Time of his leaving off from Fishing, and not to leave his said Anchor behind him to keep his Birth, contrary to ancient Order and Custom.

To put out
a Light
every dark
and foggy
Night,
&c.

8. *Item*, THAT each Trinck shall every dark and foggy Night, hang forth out of his said Trinck Boat one Lanthorn, with sufficient Candle-light, for the better and safer Passage of Ships, Boats, and Vessels passing to and fro upon the said River: And that every Trinck Cable be no more than twenty Fathom long at the most; or any Henbilt above twenty-two Fathom long. And likewise to have a Ward of forty Fathom to shere off and give way, if any Ship, Crayer, or other Vessel, shall chance to drive upon them.

Trincker-
man to
appear at
Guildball

9. *Item*, THAT every Trinckerman shall, one Week before his going to fish, come up to the Chapel of *Guildball*, *London*, and there

there appear before the *Water Bailiff*, as well Chapel
to receive Leave and Licence for their going before the
forth, as also to hear the Orders and Institu- *Water*
tions ordained for the Preservation of the said *Bailiff*.
River, to be there openly and publickly read,
to the End they may the better observe and
keep the said Orders, and every Thing there-
in contained.

10. *Item*, THAT no Hebberman shall fish Directions
for Smelt
for Smelts before the twenty-fourth Day of Fishing,
August yearly, and so to continue till Good- and that
Friday; and that no Hebberman shall fish in every Heb-
Haven, Creek, Breach or Issue, with any berman
Net of less Assize than three Inches for appear at
Flounders, from the Feast of *Easter*, until *Guildhall*
the said twenty-fourth Day of *August*, yearly. Chapel,
And shall likewise appear before the *Water* before the
Bailiff of *London*, at the Chapel of *Guild- Water*
ball, there to receive Leave or Licence for *Bailiff*.
their said going forth. And that the Meish
of their said Smelt Nets be full Inch wet and
dry, and not otherwise.

11. *Item*, THAT every Hebberman shall No Heb-
fish by the Shore, and pitch their Pole at half berman to
Ebb, and shall have but forty Fathom Rope lie Float-
allowed from the Pitch of their Pole into the ing or
River, and not to lie a Floating or Flatting Flatting
for Smelts between two Anchors in the Midst for Smelts,
of the Stream; nor shall have any Kind of &c.
Weight of Lead, Iron, Stone, Barrel, Fir-
kin, Kilderkin, Cask, or with any Wherry or
other Device. Nor shall fish from Good-
Friday till *Bartholomew-Tide* yearly, betwixt
London Bridge and *Gravesend*, with any Net
under two Inches, except with a Wade Net
for Bait only.

12. *Item*,

Not to
work
higher
than
Dartford
Creek for
Whitings,
&c.

12. THAT no Hebberman shall work any higher for Whitings than *Dartford* Creek, and to work with no Manner of Net for Whitings of less Affize than full Inch and half wet and dry: Nor shall go forth to take any of the said Whitings yearly, until they be lawfully licensed by the *Water Bailiff* of *London*, before whom they are severally to appear at the said Chapel of *Guildhall, London*, one Week before *Gang-tide* yearly.

All Traw-
lers Names
to be giv-
en to the
Lord
Mayor or
Water
Bailiff,
&c.

13. *Item*, You shall present the Names and Surnames of every Trawler, unto the Lord Mayor of *London*, or his Substitute the *Water Bailiff*, for the Time being. And that no Trawler shall fish above *Hole Haven* on the North-side, and *Porring* on the South-side, till a Fortnight after *Michaelmas* yearly, and all the Summer to use no Net for Soals under two Inches and a half in the Cod, being two Yards long, and the rest of the Net to be three Inches. And no Trawler to work in *Tilbury Hope* after *Michaelmas*, with any Manner of Net under four Inches for Plaice all the Net over. And no Trawler to come upon any Trawl with any other Net at any Time of the Year.

To present
all Offen-
ders.

14. *Item*, To present all such as have pitched, set or erected any Riff-Hedge, or Half-Nets, upon Stakes or otherwise, within the full Sea, and Low Water, being an Engine utterly to kill small Fish; and what Landmen they be upon *Kentish* Shore, or in any other Place within the Waters of *Thames* and *Medway*, that do or have used the same.

15. *Item*,

15. *Item*, THAT no Trawler do stay abroad to fish after *Whitsuntide* against *Wednesday* Market till *Bartholomew-tide* yearly, nor that no Trawler do fish in *Tilbury Hope* upon the *Saturday* after Sun-rising, but to wash off, hale up, and go home, as all other Fishermen ought to do, and according to the old and ancient Customs of the River of *Thames* and Waters of *Medway*.

The Times
for Fish-
ings.

16. *Item*, THAT every Trawler upon the River Eastwards, do yearly appear before the *Water Bailiff* of *London*, at the Chapel of *Guildball*, one Week before the true Times and Seasons of going forth to fish, then and there to receive Leave and Licence for their said goings forth, and to hear the Orders and Institutions ordained for the Preservation and Government of the River of *Thames*, to be there openly and publickly Read, to the End that they may the better observe and perform the same.

Time for
every
Trawler's
Appear-
ance be-
fore the
Water
Bailiff.

17. *Item*, THAT no Trawler that hath or doth use to Trawl to take Soal, Chates, Plaice or Thorn-back, shall take or bring any such Fish to any Market, or to any Country-Town to sell, except they contain the Affize as followeth, that is to say, every such Soal, Chate, Plaice, and Thorn-back, to contain in length seven Inches with the Head and Tail, and not under.

Affize of
Fish to
take and
bring to
Market.

18. *Item*, THAT no Draggerman that hath or doth use to drag for Shrimps, shall go forth to fish till the first Day of *November* yearly, and to continue till *Good Friday*: Nor shall use any such Drag at any Time of the Year above *Maggot Masse* on the South-side, and
Staky-

Directions
to be ob-
served by
Dragger-
men.

Staky-Brake Creek on the North-side, and not otherwise. And that every Dragger-man shall, upon the first Day of *November* yearly, appear before the *Water Bailiff* of *London*, to receive Leave and Licence for going forth.

All Fisher-
men to
keep true
Order of
Shooting.

19. *Item*, THAT all Manner of Fishermen whatsoever, that use to take Shads in Shadding Time, shall observe and keep their true Order of shooting a Drowes length off from one another, and to present what Disorders are kept among them, both in going forth upon *Sundays*, or otherwise. And that none of the said Shadders shall go forth to fish until they have received Leave and Licence of the Lord Mayor of *London*, or his Substitute the *Water Bailiff* for the Time being, their true Time of going forth to be the Week before *Easter* yearly, and not before.

No *Peter-*
man fleet
for Floun-
ders with
any Rug-
Net in the
Night-
time.

20. *Item*, THAT no *Peter-man* whatsoever, from *London Bridge* in the West, as far as the *River Medway* in the East, shall fleet for Flounders with any Rug-Net in the Night-time, from Sun going down until Day-light the next Morning, betwixt *Michaelmas* and *Christmas*, because in the Night-time they make great Destruction of small Flounders, and carry them away both unseen and unknown. Nor that no *Peter-man* do fish with any Hagan or Smelt Net below *London Bridge*, at any Time of the Year.

No *Peter-*
man shall
fish betwixt
London
Bridge and
Limehouse

21. *Item*, THAT no *Peter-man*, or other Person whatsoever, shall fish betwixt *London Bridge* and *Limehouse Nasse*, with any Manner of Net to fleet, beat or rug at any Time of the Year, except for Shads only:

Nor that no *Peter-man* do rug from *London Nasse*, but Bridge to *Blackwall*, and so eastward, from for Shads; *Michaelmas* yearly, until *Whitsuntide*, but on- and Rules ly three Casts at high Water, and three Casts to be ob- served in at low Water in and out, and every Rug- Rugging. Net is to contain two Inches three Quarters in the Mesh wet and dry, and every Bley- Net two Inches and half throughout, wet and dry.

22. *Item*, THAT no Fisherman, or other Smelt- Person whatsoever, shall lay down in the Ri- Leaps. ver of *Thames* Eastwards, any Smelt-Leaps before *St. Paul's Day* yearly, and so to continue till *Good Friday* next following, and no longer. Nor that no Fisherman, or other Person, shall lay in the said River any more than only one Wand of eighteen and no more, and not to lay them down until they be lawfully licensed thereunto by the Lord Mayor or *Water Bailiff*, and none to use them but Fishermen and Housholders.

23. *Item*, THAT no Fisherman, or other Eel-Leaps. Person shall lay in the said River of *Thames* any Eel-Leaps till fourteen Days after *Easter* yearly, and so to continue until *Michaelmas* next following: Nor shall lay any more, or greater Quantity than only two Dozen, and no more: Nor shall lay of the said Eel-Leaps until they be lawfully Licensed thereunto, as aforesaid, and not otherwise.

24. *Item*, THAT no Fisherman, or other Eel-Speer. Person whatsoever, shall use upon the River of *Thames*, at any Time of the Year, any Spear, called an Eel-Spear, or any other Kind of Spear whatsoever, for that they are great Destroyers of young Brood, and other Kind of

of Fish in great Abundance, and therefore altogether unlawful; no Man to use them upon Pain of Imprisonment, and further Fine, at the Discretion of the Lord Mayor.

Forefall-
ing.

25. *Item*, You shall further enquire, and true Presentment make, of all such Persons as do use to go down the River to buy up either Fish, Victuals, or other Commodities, before the same cometh to *Billingsgate*, and other Keys, being known and appointed Places of Sale, Vent, and Discharge thereof: If you know any such, you shall present who they be, and how often they have so done.

Fishing
out of Sea-
son.

26. *Item*, THAT no Fisherman, or other Person whatsoever, shall work with any Manner of Net or Engine whatsoever, to take or kill any Dace or Roch from the Tenth of *March*, till the Tenth of *May* yearly, for that they do then shed their Spawn: Nor that they take or kill any of the said Dace, Roch, or other Kind of Fish, out of their due Kind or Season, nor except they contain in Length according to the true Scantling and Affize, and not otherwise.

Soil and
Rubbish.

27. *Item*, You shall further enquire, and true Presentment make, whether any Butcher, Brewer, Inn-keeper, or any other Person or Persons, as well within the City of *London*, as in any other Country Town or Village (as far as the Liberty of the Lord Mayor extendeth) have cast or put into the said River, any Paunches, Grains, Horse-dung, or other Rubbish, Soil or Filth whatsoever, to the very great Annoyance and Hurt of the said River, on Pain of Imprisonment, and further Fine, at the Discretion of the Lord Mayor of *Lon-*

†

don :

don : If you know any such, you shall present them.

28. *Item*, You shall further enquire what Royal Fishes have been taken within the Jurisdiction and Royalty of the Lord Mayor of *London*, as namely, Whales, Sturgeons, Porpusses, and such like, and to present the Name and Names of all such Persons as shall take them, to the Lord Mayor of *London* for the Time being.

29. *Item*, THAT no Fisherman, or other Person whatsoever, shall lay in the said River of *Thames* any Lampern-Leaps to take Lamperns before *Bartholomew-Tide* yearly, and so to continue till *Good Friday*, nor shall lay any more or greater Quantity than only one Rod of forty Fathom, containing seven Dozen of Leaps, and not above : Nor shall lay any of the said Rods until they shall be lawfully Licensed by the Lord Mayor of *London*, or by his Substitute the *Water Bailiff* for the Time being.

30. *Item*, THAT no Person do make or continue any Wharf, Building, or Potgallery, or other Purpresture, or Incroachment into, upon, or over any other Part of the Soil of the said River, whereby the said River may be in the least diminished, nor any Way annoy or prejudice the said River, or the common Passage therein, or hurt the Banks thereof.

31. *Lastly*, BECAUSE the Number of Fishermen do daily increase, and not only Fishermen, but also a great Number of Cable-Hangers and Tradesmen, such as were never

Lampern-Rods.

No Incroachments to be permitted.

Rules to be observed by Fishermen and others.

The CONSERVACY of

bound Apprenticé to the Craft and Science of Fishing, to the great Hurt of the River, and hindrance of Fishermen, the said River being not able to relieve and succour, the multiplicity of them being so great : It is now ordained, That every Fisherman, dwelling near unto the said River, that doth take and receive into his or their Custody, any Apprentice to the said Trade of Fishing, shall, within one Month next after, repair unto the *Water Bailiff* of *London*, to have his Indenture written and engrossed, to the End that after he may present him to the Chamberlain of *London* to be enrolled, according to the ancient Custom : And not to receive any Apprentice under the Term of Seven Years, and at the End and Expiration of the said Term, the Master of the said Apprentice do again present him to the said *Water Bailiff*, to be by him admitted and allowed a Fisherman. And finally, You shall enquire and true Presentment make, by the Oaths that you and every of you have taken, whether any Fisherman, or other Person whatsoever they be, have with any Manner of Net or Engine offended or misused himself in Fishing within the said River, or whether they have any Manner of Ways made Destruction of the Brood and Fry of any Kind of Fish therein contained, contrary to the good and ancient Laws, Ordinances and Constitutions of the said River of *Thames*. And to make a true, perfect, and faithful Presentment of all other Kind of Enormities, Hurts, Offences, and Annoyances, touching as well Fishermen as any other Person or Persons

Persons within the said Jurisdiction, being any manner of Ways hurtful or offensive to the same. Again,

At a Court of Aldermen, the Tenth of July, 1673, an Order was made as followeth; viz.

THIS Court considering the great Orders for
Decay of the Fishing-Trade in the the Prefer-
River of *Thames*, and conceiving the Draw- vation of
ing the Shores (of late so frequently prac- the Fish.
tised) is the chief Ground thereof, as tend-
ing to the great Prejudice and utter De-
struction of the Brood and Fry of all Sorts
of Fish, did thereupon this Day strictly or-
der and enjoin, That no Person do hereafter
presume to draw the Shores in the River of
Thames, upon any Pretence whatsoever, at
any Time or Season of the Year, either
with lawful or unlawful Nets, save only for
Salmons, in Rooms appointed and set out
for that Purpose by this Court: And that
none do fish for Salmons in such Rooms,
but only such as shall be impowered there-
unto under the Seal of the Mayoralty of this
City: And also that none fish with a Net
under six Inches in the Mesh, upon Pain
that every Offender shall forfeit for every
such Offence his Nets, and pay as a Fine
the Sum of Twenty Pounds, and suffer Im-
prisonment, during the Pleasure of the Court.
And to the End more diligent and strict
Search may for the future be made upon
the said River than heretofore hath been, or
possibly

The CONSERVACY of

‘ possibly can be, by one single Person, for
 ‘ such as fish with unlawful Nets, at unlawful
 ‘ Times, and in unlawful Manner; the *Wa-*
 ‘ *ter Bailiff* for the Time being, is by this
 ‘ Court ordered and impowered, from Time
 ‘ to Time, to authorize two or more honest
 ‘ Fishermen, in such Town and Places as he
 ‘ shall think convenient, as well below as a-
 ‘ bove the Bridge, to be Assistant to him in the
 ‘ Execution of his Duty; and when they shall
 ‘ think fit, to go out and search for any such
 ‘ Offenders, and to take away their Nets, and
 ‘ give their Names to Mr. *Water Bailiff*, that
 ‘ he may take effectual Care, that they be
 ‘ severely proceeded against according to
 ‘ Law.’

Wagstaffe.

To which it cannot be improper to add one of the Articles of the Charge of the *Wardmote*’s Inquest *; viz. and also of divers other Things ordained by Act of Common Council of this City for the Redress and Amendment of the said River, which as now is in great Decay and Ruin, and will be in a short Time past all Remedy, if high and substantial Provisions, and great Help, be not had with all Speed and Diligence possible, as more plainly appeareth in the said Act of Common Council of this City. Also, if any Manner of Person or Persons, cast or lay any Dung, Ordure, Rubbish, Sea-coal, Dust,

* At a general Quarter Sessions of the Peace, held at Guildhall on 13 May, 1698, *Humphry Edwin*, Lord Mayor.

Rushes,

Rushes, or any other Thing noyant in the River *Thames*, *Walbrook*, *Fleet*, or other Ditches of this City, or in the open Streets, Ways, or Lanes within the City.

FROM hence it is easy to collect the Reason why, upon Revival of the Fisherman's Company, the Parliament * *restrained* all the *By-Laws* to be made by them to the *Approbation* of, and submitted them to be *altered* or *amended* by the Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of *London*, and withal reserving to their Officer, the *Water Bailiff*, his antient Fees, or 30 *l. per Annum*, in lieu thereof, over and above the Benefit of granting of Licences for Fishing in the several Seasons, to be still continued to him, and a Right of being one of the Wardens of the Company.

THIS Regulation produced a new Set of *By-Laws*, which by the Dissolution of the Company, are now of no Force, and pity it is that they are so, as they would undoubtedly be of very great Use (I mean those which relate to the Fishery) in preserving the same.

BUT this Act no where restrained the Conservator of the *Thames*, from making such Orders, as should be thought necessary for the Preservation of the Fry, and the Navigation of the River of *Thames*; wherefore in the Year 1741, Sir *Daniel Lambert*, Knt. being then Lord Mayor, and *Conservator* of the River of *Thames*, and Waters of *Medway*, at the Request of the Court of Aldermen, added several good and wholesome

* 9 *Annæ*, Cap. xxvi.

Orders to those of Sir Robert Duncy, afore-
said; as followeth, viz.

ORDERS devised and agreed upon *
by the Right Honourable Daniel Lam-
bert, Esq; Lord Mayor of the City of
London, Conservator of the River of
Thames, Waters of Medway, and Ri-
ver Lee, for the Conservation and Pre-
servation of the Spawn, Brood, and Fry
of Fish therein, as followeth.

How un-
lawful
Nets, &c.
may be
discovered,
and the
Offenders
punished.

No Net
under two
Inches and
a half shall
be worked
above
Richmond
Crane up-
on the Ri-
ver of
Thames.

Not to use
any Net,
&c. of less
Affize than
aforesaid.

Nor to use
Weights
or Stones,
&c.

IMPRIMIS, To the End, all unlawful
Nets, and Engines, and other Abuses,
offered to the Prejudice, and Destruction of
the Fishery, within the Jurisdiction of the
Lord Mayor of London, may be discovered,
and the Offenders punished,

It is ordained, That no Net under the
Affize of two Inches and half in the Mesh,
shall be worked, or wrought, by any Person
using the Art, Mystery, or Craft of a Fisher-
man, at any Time of the Year, above Rich-
mond Crane, upon the River of Thames, by
reason it is very prejudicial and destructive
to the Fry, and Spawn of Fish, there being
no Season of Smelts above that Place;

NOR shall use any Net in that Work, cal-
led Beating of the Bush, Flag, or Reed,
which shall be of less Affize than three Inches
in the Mesh:

NOR shall use any Weights or Stones to
their Nets, upon forfeiture of Forty Shillings
for each Offence.

Item,

Item, THAT no Pike-Net, or other Net or Engine, shall be wrought or drawn over the Weeds, for catching of Pikes, by any Person using the Art, Mystery, or Craft of a Fisherman, within the Jurisdiction aforesaid; by Reason it is destructive to, and occasioneth the driving off all other Fish out of the Western Rivers, which otherwise would lie, and Breed and Spawn, in the said Weeds, upon the like Penalty and Forfeiture of Forty Shillings for every such Offence.

No Pike-Net, &c. shall be drawn over the Weeds on Penalty of 40 s.

Item, THAT no Person using the Art, Mystery, or Craft of a Fisherman, shall at any Time, within the said Jurisdiction, bend any Net by Anchors, or otherwise thwart the Channel, and so as to draw another Net into it, whereby the Spawn of Barbel, and other Fish may be destroyed, upon the Forfeiture of Forty Shillings for every such Offence.

No Person shall bend any Net by Anchors, &c. upon the Forfeiture of 40 s.

Item, THAT no such Person shall Draw, Work, or Land, any Net for Salmon, of a lesser Affize than three Inches in the Meish, from the Tenth of *March*, until the Fourteenth of *September*, in any Part of the River of *Thames*, from *Kewpile* Westward, to the City of *London* Mark-Stone above *Stain's* Bridge, upon Forfeiture of Forty Shillings for every such Offence.

No Person to Draw any Net for Salmon, of less Affize than three Inches one half in the Meish, on Penalty of 40 s.

Item, THAT no such Person shall Band, or use the Trade of Banding, within the Jurisdiction aforesaid, at any Time of the Year, except between the first Day of *November*, and the first Day of *March* yearly: Nor shall use any more than twelve Bands at a Time, nor above one hundred Hooks upon each Band; nor shall lay down within the Jurisdic-

No Person to Band between *November* 1, and *March* 1, nor any more than 12 Bands and 100

Hooks up-
on each
Band, on
Penalty of
40 s.

How to
find out
Offenders.

Fishermen
to have
their
Names on
their Boats
and their
Place of
Abode.

No Person
to go out
to fish
without
Leave first
obtained
of the
Water
Bailiff.

Water
Bailiff to
appoint
proper
Seasons for
fishing.

tion aforefaid, any more, or other Bands in the mean Time, whilst those twelve Bands are baited afresh, upon Forfeiture of Forty Shillings for every fuch Offence.

Item, For the more easy finding out of Offenders, their Names and Places of Abode;

It is further ordered, That every Person who shall fish with a Boat, within the Jurisdiction aforefaid, after the twenty-fifth Day of *December*, 1741, shall have on his Boat both his Christian and Sirname, and alfo the Name of the Parish in which he dwelleth, legibly painted in fome convenient Place, where any one may fee and read the fame; on Forfeiture of Twenty Shillings for every Time he shall act contrary hereunto.

Item, THAT no Person or Persons whatsoever shall, at any Time or Times hereafter, upon any Season or Seasons whatsoever, go out to fish for Smelts, Shads, or any other Fish whatsoever; or lay Leaps, or Rods for Eels, in any Place within the Jurisdiction aforefaid, without Leave, and a Licence first had and obtained, under the Hand and Seal of the *Water Bailiff*, for the Time being, who shall have and receive, for every fuch Licence, the fame Fees and Duties, as have been immemorially paid, and allowed to the *Water Bailiff* for every Licence: And that the faid *Water Bailiff*, for the Time being shall, from Time to Time, limit and appoint the proper and refpective Times and Seasons for the faid Fishermens going forth to fish: And that upon every fuch Occasion, all, and every of the faid Fishermen, shall, upon due Summons or Notice given, repair to the faid

faid *Water Bailiff*, at the Chapel, at the *Guildball*, To appear at Guildball Chapel upon due Notice, on Penalty of 5 l.
London, there to receive and take out their
several and respective Licences for such their
going forth to Fish; and to hear the Ordina-
nances for the Preservation of the Fishery,
publickly and openly read, to the End that
they may the better observe and keep the said
Ordinances; and that none go out to fish,
without such a Grant or Licence; and that
every Fisherman offending herein, shall for-
feit and pay Five Pounds for every such Of-
fence.

Item, FOR the better Prevention of using To prevent fishing with unlawful Nets.
unlawful Craft, by fishing with unlawful Nets
or Engines:

It is further ordained, That any Person or
Persons, Fishermen, or Others, who shall be Person or Persons authorized by the
authorized thereunto by the *Water Bailiff*, for
the Time being, shall, and may, from Time
to Time, and at all Times, quietly and *Water Bailiff*, may search Fishing Boats at any Time.
peaceably, enter into any Boat or Boats, Vessel
or Vessels, belonging to any Person or Persons,
using the Art or Craft of fishing in any Wa-
ter or Waters within the Jurisdiction aforesaid,
to view and search for all unsizeable and un-
lawful Nets and Engines, and for any Fish
which they shall suspect to be taken, killed,
or destroyed, contrary to the Laws and Sta-
tutes of this Kingdom; and the same unlaw-
ful Nets and Engines to seize and take away,
and bring to the *Water Bailiff* (with the
Names of every such Offender, that they may
be proceeded against according to Law) and
to seize and take away the Fish so taken and
destroyed, contrary to the said Laws, and to
distribute the same among the Poor: And
I
whosoever

Not to re-
sist the
Water
Bailiff, or
his Depu-
ties on
Penalty of
40 Marks.

whosoever shall resist or disturb the said *Water Bailiff*, and his Deputies, or any of them in the Execution of their lawful Office or Employment, of searching for and seizing unlawful Nets, Engines or Fish, as afore-
said, shall forfeit and pay Twenty Marks of lawful Money of *England* for every such Offence.

In fine, That the Lord Mayor of *London* has Power of making such Orders and Regulations, as may be conducive for the better Preservation of the *Navigation* and *Fishery* of this River, it may more fully appear from these few general Observations; viz.

First, By Virtue of his peculiar Conservatorship herein, he, more than any other Conservator, has the Power of solely punishing, and even imprisoning Offences committed therein.

Secondly, By the antient Custom of the City, who hath made such Orders, Time out of Mind, as may appear in some Measure from the Antiquity of the above recited Orders.

Thirdly, It may be also observable, that a peculiar Reservation is made of the City's Power in making such Orders, not only in the two Charters granted to the Fishermen's Company, the one by King *Charles the First*, and the other by King *James the Second*; as likewise by Statute 9 *Annæ*, Cap. xxvi. wherein the said Company are empowered to make By-Laws for their Rule and Government in Fishing, &c. but not without their being first offered to the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, for their Approbation, Alteration, Addition

Addition or Amendment ; and which likewise seems as if even herein, the City had so far, for the Good of the Fishery, made such a Delegation or Concession of their Right in so doing, as Fishermen are naturally more capable of forming good and proper Laws, for the Preservation thereof.

I CANNOT conclude this historical Account of the Power of the Conservator of the River of *Thames*, without adding two necessary Observations: The one is, concerning Timbers that lie floating and a-drift on the River, to the Prejudice either of the *Navigation* or *Fishery*, and as such are seizable by the Water Bailiff ; the other is, in Regard to the Use of Stops and Hatches, or Stakes and Piles, erected in the said River, for the Taking of Lamprons, and other Fish.

In Regard to the first Observation, it appears, that upon Complaint made to the Lord Mayor, concerning some annoying Timbers in *Tilbury-Hope*, below *Gravesend*, dangerous to Passengers, and destructive to the young Brood of Fish, and to Fishermens Nets ; they were, by his honourable Care, and the Pains, and Diligence of his Deputy, the *Water-Bailiff* (being thereto, by his Office and Place warrantably directed) all taken up, and conveyed to *Guildhall* in *London*, as an Example to all that should dare to offend in the like Nature, or presume to prejudice such an honourable Course of Fishing ; and were it not that the *Water Bailiff*, in Vertue of his Office, has such a Right of seizing, or caus-

Observa-
tion con-
cerning
floating
Timber,
&c.

N. B. Also see Fishermens two Charters, p. 137, 143, about Drifts.

ing

ing to be seized, all Drifts, or Waifs, as Boats, Timbers, Anchors, Cables, floating, or found as a-drift, and putting them in several proper appointed, publick Places, where any one might at all Times, examine into the same: What great Losses would the Government, and especially the Timber Merchants, otherwise sustain, who so frequently have such considerable Quantities of Timbers driven away on the breaking of a hard Frost, extraordinary high Tides, or by tempestuous and windy Weather, and which would either float away out to Sea, be taken up by Ships outward bound, or secreted, and cut up by some of the Inhabitants adjoining to the *Thames*, which two last Actions are but too frequently practised, to the very great Loss of the proper Owners, and who justly claim, and cry out for Relief and Remedy herein; and which was so apparent in King *Charles I.* and King *James's* Time, that in their Charter, granted to the Fishermen, there is a particular Injunction on the Company, to inform the Lord Mayor, or the *Water Bailiff*, of all Drifts, or Concealments of such.

Observation concerning Stops, &c.

IN REGARD to the second Observation. It is highly necessary for the Conservator of this great, and navigable River, to have Power to clear the said River of Stops and Hatches, as has been shewn; and in Consequence of the said Power, he, between the Years, 1515, and 1518, caused the River of *Thames* Westward, to be cleared of about Seventy-nine Stops, or Hatches, consisting of several great Stakes, and Piles, erected by Fishermen, for their private Lucre, and standing dangerously for Passengers; but none of these are now left, except such

such as stand out of the passable high Stream, that can prejudice none.

For ' otherwise, says Mr. *Stow*, * they serve
' as a great Succour, to the young Brood and
' Fry, being planted at the Waters Bottom,
' and placed so remotely on the River, that
' they relieve and comfort many poor Fisher-
' men, thereon dwelling. Besides, in the great
' Heat and Draught of Summer, when Wa-
' ter is usually most scanty, these Stops are
' the Cause of raising the Waters so high, that
' Barges may well and safely pass with all
' Kinds of Goods, to our antient Mother Ci-
' ty; whereas else they would be grounded,
' how many soever, and be void of Passage,
' by lowness of the Water.'

ANOTHER beneficial Matter in these Stops, is; that as they necessarily must be drove in such shallow Places of the River, as where, in Scarcity of Water, no Barge can pass, so they must consequently be serviceable to the Barge-men, not only in shewing them where to avoid, in the Day Time, running a-ground, but are likewise a good Signal for the preventing their so doing in the Night Time.

THUS I have proved the City of *London's* Jurisdiction over the River *Thames*; as also I have produced those Laws now Extant, which from Time to Time have been enacted, in Pursuance to the said Authority, and Jurisdiction. Therefore, the next Thing is to shew in what Manner, and by what Officers the City executes the said Power.

In Right of this Power, the Lord Mayor

The City's of *London* holds a Court at such Times and Places as he shall appoint, and direct, within *Middlesex* and *Essex* on the North Shore, and down in *Kent* and *Surry*, on the South-Side the said River.

IN this Court he usually sits judicially, eight Times Yearly, for the better maintaining of the Cities Rights and Privileges, on the said River, and hath a Power of summoning four Juries out of the Inhabitants of these said Counties, to whom an Oath is administered, to make Inquisition after all Offences committed on the said River, and *Medway*, and these go up the River, as far as *Stain's* Bridge; and down the River, as far as the Points of it, next the Sea, to examine and enquire, according to the abovesaid Rules and Orders; and according to the Verdict of these Juries, the Court proceeds to the Punishment of all Transgressions of Fishermen, or others, that create any Hurt or Damage to the *Thames*, or *Fry*, &c.

By whom omitted. BUT sometimes, these Sessions of the Conservacy, have been omitted for a long Time. The Lord Mayors, in the Reign of King *James the First*, had not held this Court in divers Years, till the Year 1616, when Sir *John Folles*, Knt. Lord Mayor, and divers Aldermen, and the other Officers, and Gentlemen, went in their Barges in great State, taking Water at *Billingsgate*, and so to *Gravesend*, where they sat upon the Conservacy; at which Time and Place, a Jury of Freeholders of the said County, being sworn to enquire of all Offences committed in any Part of that River, within the said County, Master-Common Serjeant delivered them a Charge to this Effect, viz.

Revived
by Sir
*John
Folles*.

‘ THAT

‘ THAT, forasmuch, as there had not been The com-
 ‘ any Sessions of Conservacy in many Years mon Ser-
 ‘ past, kept by any Lord Mayor of *London*, jeant’s
 ‘ in that Place, it was probable they could Speach
 ‘ not be well informed, neither of the Lord concern-
 ‘ Mayor’s Jurisdiction, and Power to reform ing the
 ‘ Annoyances and Offences there, nor of the Cities
 ‘ Nature of the Service, by them to be per- Right to
 ‘ formed, in the Course of their Enquiry ; and the Con-
 ‘ therefore he thought fit to make known un- servacy of
 ‘ to them, both the one and the other. the
 ‘ *Thames*.

AND hereupon he shewed them, that the Jurisdiction of the City of *London*, in the River of *Thames*, from *Stain’s* Bridge, westward, unto the Points of the River, next to the Sea, eastward, appeareth to belong to the City in Manner and Form as followeth ; both in Point of Right, and Point of Usage.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| In Point of
RIGHT. | { | 1. By Prescription. |
| | | 2. By Allowance in Eyre. |
| | | 3. By antient Charters. |
| | | 4. By Acts of Parliament. |
| | | 5. By Inquisitions. |
| | | 6. By Decrees upon hearing,
<i>Coram Rege ipso, & in Ca-
 mera Stellata.</i> |
| | | 7. By Letters Patents. |
| | | 8. By Proclamations. |
| | | 9. By Reports of King’s Coun-
cil. |
| | | 10. By a <i>Quo Warranto</i> . |
| | | 11. By Records in the <i>Tower</i> . |

- In Point of
USAGE.
- 1. By antient Ordinances.
 - 2. By Punishment of Offenders.
 - 3. By Writs of Precepts.
 - 4. By Accounts of Charges of Searches, from 17 *Richard II.*, to Queen *Elisabeth*.
 - 5. By Commission.
 - 6. By continual Claim, ever since the 37 *Hen. VIII.*

First in Point of RIGHT.

By Pre-
scription.

By *Prescription*, as appeareth by an antient Book, called, *Dunthorne*. That, *Civitatis Fundationis, ædificationis, et Constructionis, Causa erat Thamefis Fluvius, &c. i. e.* The River *Thames*, was the Cause of the first Founding, Erecting, and Building of the City: The Government of which, both City and River, as well the Chiefs, the Mayors, the Keepers, the Sheriffs, the Aldermen, and eminent Men of the said City, hitherto have obtained and hold. Whence he inferred, that the Government of the River hath belonged to the City, Time out of Mind.

A. D. 1237. * *Jorden Coventry*, one of the Sheriffs of *London*, was by the Mayor and Aldermen, sent to remove certain Kiddells, that annoyed the River of *Thames* and *Medway*; who *ultra Genland versus Mare*, did take divers Persons that were Offenders, and did Imprison them: Whereupon Complaint being made to King *Henry III.*, who upon hear-

* *An. 21. Hen. III.*

ing of the said Matter, before the said King *Henry*; the Cities Jurisdiction was set forth, and allowed, and the Complainants convicted, and every of them at 10 *l.* and the Amercements adjudged to the City; and their Nets, were afterwards burned by Judgment, given by the Lord Mayor and Aldermen in the Hustings *.

A. D. 1377 †. Writs were directed to the Sheriffs of *Kent* and *Essex*, reciting the Cities Title, with Command not to suffer the Citizens of *London*, to be molested, contrary to the Liberties formerly granted, and allowed unto them.

By Allowance in Eyre. *A. D.* 1257. †. Before By Allow-
Hugh Bigot, being Justice itinerant; the She-^{ance in}
riffs and Citizens of *London*, were called in Eyre.
Question, for their Jurisdiction exercised on the
River of *Thames*. Before whom it was found,
by a Jury in *Southwark*, that none had any
Right and Title in the *Thames*, as far as the
new *Whirl* Pool, but the Citizens of *London*
only.

A. D. 1320 ||, the Constable of the *Tower*
was indicted by divers Wards of *London*, be-
fore the Justice in *Eyre*, at the *Tower*, con-
cerning Kiddals set in the *Thames*, which, it
seems, the said Constable had received Con-
sideration for §. The Constable answered, as

* *Thomas Legge*, Mayor. And it is further recorded in
the 37 *Hen. III.* 1252. That eodem Anno ante Pentecostem,
Vicicomites London, quia *Aque Tamesiæ* pertinent ad *Lond.*
per Preceptum dict. Dom. Regis derivaverunt omnes alios Gur-
gites à *Lond.* usque mare. *Joan. Tholozane*, Mayor. † 1 *Rich.*
II. *Nicholas Brembyr*, Mayor. † 41 *Hen. III.* *James*
Andrew, Mayor. || 14 *Edw. II.* § See *Lib.*
Antiq. Reg. p. 156.

to the Kiddals, that the Justices had not Jurisdiction out of *London* ; and that the afore-said Kiddals were in other Counties : But the Justices said, that the Water of the *Thames*, as far as the Sea, belonged to the City of *London* ; and, if he pleased, he might bring in his Answer. Who then pleaded, not Guilty ^a.

By antient
Charters.

By antient Charters, King *Richard the First*, the Son of *Henry the Second*, granted ^b, and firmly commanded, that all the Kiddals that are in the *Thames* be taken away, wheresoever they are in the *Thames*.

KING *John* ^c granted, and firmly commanded, that all the Kiddals that are in the *Thames*, ~~on~~ the *Medway*, be taken away, and that no other Kiddals be placed in the *Thames*, or in the *Medway*, upon Pain of forfeiture of 10 *l. Sterling*.

LIKEWISE (in this same Charter) he says,
 ‘ We have clearly quit-claimed all that, which
 ‘ the Keepers of the *Tower of London* were
 ‘ wont Yearly to receive of the said Wears :
 ‘ Wherefore we will, and stedfastly command,
 ‘ that no Keeper of the said *Tower*, at any
 ‘ Time hereafter, exact any Thing from any
 ‘ Body, nor trouble or molest any Person, by
 ‘ Reason of the said Wears ; for it is suffici-
 ‘ ently manifested, and by the right Reverend
 ‘ *Hubert*, Archbishop of *Canterbury*, and by
 ‘ other of our faithful Subjects, it is suffici-
 ‘ ently given us to understand, that very great
 ‘ Detriment and Discommodity hath grown
 ‘ to our said City of *London*, and also to our

^a *Nicholas Faryngdone*, Mayor. ^b *An. 1196. Henry Fitz-Alwyn*, Mayor. ^c In the first Year of his Reign, and *A. D. 1199, Henry Fitz-Alwyn*, Mayor.

‘ Realm,

‘ Realm, by Occasion of these Wears, &c.
 ‘ &c.’ He then urged the famous Charter^d of the 11th of King *Henry the Third*, A. D. 1226, where it is said: ‘ We have
 ‘ graunted, and stedfastly commaunded, that
 ‘ al the Wears that ben in *Thamys*, or in *Med-*
 ‘ *wey*, by *Medwey*, where that ever they be
 ‘ in *Thamys*, or in *Medwey*, be done away.
 ‘ And that from hens forward no Weris be
 ‘ sett in *Thamys*, nor in *Medwey*, upon forfei-
 ‘ ture of 10 l.

‘ ALSO we clayme quyte to our Citezens of
 ‘ *London*, al that the Constables of our *Tour* of
 ‘ *London* was wont to take of the same Weris;
 ‘ wherefore we wyll, and stedfastly command,
 ‘ that no Constable of the *Tour*, any Tyme from
 ‘ hens forward any Thing axe, or any Graunte
 ‘ do, to any of the same Cite, by Encheson of the
 ‘ same Weris. It is knowne in owe to us, and
 ‘ (by) our trewe Men do us to understonde, that
 ‘ most Prayeng and laste Profyte might fall to
 ‘ the same Cite, and to al the Realme, by En-
 ‘ cheson of the same Weris, which we make for
 ‘ ever firme, and stable to the same Cite.’ We
 have also granted to the same, that they en-
 joy well, and in Peace, freely and quietly, all
 their Liberties which hitherto they have used,
 as well in the City of *London*, as without, as
 well in the Waters as Land, and in all other
 Places.

AND in this same King’s Reign, such a
 particular Regard is had to the City, that in
 the 15th Article of *Magna Charta*, it is ex-

^d See the antient Book, called *the Customs of London*,
Richard Renger, Mayor,

The CONSERVACY of

presly stipulated, that the City of *London* shall have all its antient Privileges, and free Customs, as well by Land as by Water^c.

AND (says Mr. *Strype*) there is a Record of 2 *Edw.* III, allowing the City Liberty to remove and take away the Kiddals in the Water of *Thames* and *Medway*; “Whereby also the Sheriffs of all the Counties, on which the *Thames* washed, were commanded, not to hinder or interrupt the City of *London*, in removing and taking away the said Kiddals; and that they have and enjoy the Penalties, that thence belong to us^f.”

IN the 68 Article of a Charter, granted to the City of *London* by King *Richard the Second*, are these Words :

‘ AND that the same Citizens remove, and
‘ do away al the Weris in *Thamys* and *Med-*
‘ *way*, and that they have the Punishments
‘ thereof belonging to us.’

LIKEWISE in the 73d Article, are these Words :

‘ AND that the Constable of the *Tower* of
‘ *London* make no Preses by Land nor by
‘ Water, of Vitayle, or any other Thyng,
‘ whatsoever they ben, of Men of the foresaid
‘ Cite, nor non other, coming to the Cite,
‘ or going out; nor he shall not arresten be
‘ ony Maner Way, Shipes, nor Botes bryng-
‘ ing, or ledyng Vitayles, or other Merchan-
‘ dyfes, to the Cite, or for (fro) the Cite
‘ foresaid^g.

^c See *Matt. Paris Hist. Angl.* ^f A. D. 1328, *John Grauntham*, Mayor. ^g *Nicholas Brembyr*, Mayor. And this I apprehend is the Charter granted in Parliament to the City of *London* in *Rich.* II. in which I am confirmed by *Cotton's Rec.* Turr. 294, 466, &c.

AND

AND King *James the First*, in Order to remove, and take away all Doubts and Controversies of the City's not having a Right to the Jurisdiction, and Conservacy of the *Thames*, both for the present as well as future Times, did, by his Letters Patents *, grant, ratify, and confirm, to the City of *London*, the Conservacy of the said River of *Thames*, and Waters of *Medway*, in Manner following:

‘ WHEREAS our beloved Mayor, and Commonalty, and Citizens of our City of *London*, Time out of Mind, have had, exercised, and ought to have and exercise the Office of Bailiff and Conservator of the Waters of *Thames*, to be exercised and occupied by the Mayor of the said City, for the Time being, during the Time of his Mayoralty; or by his sufficient Deputies, in, upon and about, the Waters of *Thames* (that is to say) from the Bridge of the Town of *Stains*, in the County of *Middlesex*, and towards the East unto *London-Bridge*, and from thence unto a certain Place, called *Kendall*, otherwise *Yenland*, otherwise *Yenlett*, towards the Sea, and East, and in *Medway*, and in the Port of the City of *London* aforesaid; and upon whatsoever Bank, and upon every Shore, and upon every Wharf of the said Water of *Thames*, within the Limits and Bounds aforesaid, and in and upon, and about all and every of them.’

‘ AND also for all the Time aforesaid, have had and taken, and ought, and have accus-

* Dated 3 Jac. 1605, Aug. 20.

The CONSERVACY of

‘tomed to have and take, to their own proper Use, by the Mayor of the same City for the Time being, during the Times of Mayoralty, or by his sufficient Deputies, all Wages, Rewards, Fees, and Profits, belonging to the same Office of Bailiff.’

‘AND further, of our special Grace, and certain Knowledge, and meer Motion, we have granted, and, by these Presents, for us, our Heirs and Successors, do grant to the said Mayor and Commonalty, and Citizens, and their Successors, that they may exercise and execute the said Office of Bailiff and Conservator of the Water of *Thames*, by the Mayor of the said City for the Time being, during the Time of his Mayoralty, or by his sufficient Deputies, from Time to Time, for ever, in, upon, or about the same Water of *Thames* (that is to say) from the Bridge of *Stains* to the Bridge of *London*, and from thence to a certain Place, called *Yenland*, otherwise *Yenleet*, towards the Sea, and towards the East, and *Medway*, and in the Port of the City of *London* aforesaid; and upon whatever Bank, Shore, and Wharf, of the same Waters of *Thames*, within the Limits and Bounds aforesaid, in, upon, and about every one of the same; and to receive and collect, enjoy all and singular Wages, Rewards, Fees, and Profits, to the same Office of Bailiff pertaining, to the proper Use of the said Mayor of the same City, for the Time being, during the Time of his Mayoralty, or by his sufficient Deputies, &c. &c. *.’

* Sir Henry Holliday, Mayor.

KING

KING *Charles the First* grants * all Recognizances taken, or to be taken, for the Security of the Peace, or good Behaviour; with all Recognizances taken in the Court for the River of *Thames*, and all Things thereunto appertaining; as likewise all Fines, Amerciaments, and Penalties, adjudged by the Mayor, &c. relating, or any Ways belonging to his said Courts, as Conservator of the River of *Thames*, without Account.

ALL which Grants, or Charters, were, after the Restoration of the Royal Family, repeated, and confirmed by King *Charles the Second*, in the 15th Year of his Reign, on the 24th of *June*, 1663. And though, by the Advice of evil Council, he was afterwards persuaded to include *London* in the common Scheme to enslave the Nation, by seizing all Charters into his own Hands; that iniquitous Design, pursued by his Brother, King *James the Second*, was over-ruled by Providence, and their *Quo warrantos* not only reversed, but the City Privileges and Charters were more strongly confirmed, and secured to them, by an Act of Parliament in the 2d of *William and Mary*.

UNDER this Argument of Right, let us now also consider how these Charters, or Royal Grants, are strengthened, explained, and enlarged by Acts of Parliament: Now, in general, it is provided †, that the Waters of *Humber*, *Ouse*, *Trent*, *Donner*, &c. and all other Waters, wherein Salmons shall be taken, shall be in Defence for taking of Salmons from

* In the 14 of his Reign, *A. D.* 1636. Oct. 14. Sir *Richard Fenn*, Mayor. † By 13 *Edw. I.* Cap. 47. *A. D.* 1285.

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the ^a Nativity of our Lady unto St. *Martin's* Day.

AND that likewise young Salmons shall not be taken, nor destroyed by Nets, or other Engines at the Mill Pools, from the Midst of *April*, untill ^b the Nativity of St. *John the Baptist*.

AND in Places where such Waters be, there shall be assigned Overseers of this Statute, which being sworn, shall often enquire of the Offenders; and for the first Trespass, they shall be punished by burning of their Nets and Engines; and for the second, they shall have Imprisonment for a Quarter of a Year; and for the third Trespass, they shall be imprisoned a Year, and as the Trespass encreaseth, so shall the Punishment ^c.

ALL Fishers, Vintners, and Victuallers, coming to the City of *London*, shall be in the Rule of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen ^d; see 7 *Rich. II.* Cap. xi.

PROCLAMATION ^e shall be made, as well in *London* as in other Cities and Towns, that none cast any Annoyance, Dung, Entrails, nor any other Ordure into the Ditches, Rivers, Waters, and other Places; and if any do, he shall be called by Writ before the Chancellor, at his Suit that will complain, and if he be found guilty, he shall be punished after the Discretion of the Chancellor ^f.

^a viz. the eighth of September.

^b The 24th of June.

^c See *Record. Turr.* p. 61, 62, 63, c. 10. Car. 251. Co. Infit. 2 Part, 477, *Henry Whaleys*, Mayor. ^d This repeals the Stat. 5 *Rich. II.* Cap. 4. and 6 *Rich. II.* Cap. 11 & 12. See also *Rec. Tur.* 9 *Rich. II.* p. 64. — Stat. 31 *Edw. III.* Cap. 10. *Nicholas Brembyr*, Mayor.

^e By 12 *Rich. II.* Cap. 13, Stat. 2. *Anno Dom.* 1388.

^f See *Fitz N. B.* f. 176. B. 185. D.

YOUNG Salmon shall not be taken, from the Midst of *April* till the 24th of *June*, upon the Pain in *Stat. Westm* ^s.

AND none shall put into *Thames*, *Humber*, *Ouse*, *Trent*, or other Waters, any Nets, called *Stalkers*, nor other Engines, by which the Fry, or the Breed of Salmons, Lampreys, or other Fish, may be taken, upon the Pain aforesaid. And where such Rivers be, there shall be assigned, and sworn, Conservators of this Statute, as in the Statute of *Westminster*.

AND they shall punish the Offenders after the Pain contained in the said Statute ^h.

THE Justices of the Peace of all the Counties shall be Conservators, of the Statutes of *Westminster* ⁱ.

AND they shall survey, at all Times, all the Wears in such Rivers, that they be not too strait for the Destruction of the Fry, but of a reasonable Wideness, after the old Assize used: And the Justices, which shall find Default against the said Statutes, shall make true Punishment.

AND shall put Under-Conservators under them, who shall be sworn to like Surveying and Search, and Punishment, without any Favour thereof to be shewed.

AND the same Justices, in their Sessions, shall enquire, as well by their Office, as at their Information of their Under-Conservators, of all Trespasses and Defaults against any of the Points aforesaid, and shall cause them, which be thereof indicted, to come before

^s 13 *Edw.* I. Cap. 47, here confirmed by 13 *Rich.* II. Cap. 19, *A. D.* 1389. ^h viz. 13 *Edw.* I. Cap. 47.

ⁱ See 13 *Edw.* I. Cap. 47. 13 *Rich.* II. Cap. 19.

them;

them ; and if they be convicted, they shall have Imprisonment, and make Fine, after the Discretion of the Justices.

AND if the same be at the Information of any of the Under-Conservators, they shall have half the Fine.

AND the Mayor, or Warden of *London*, shall have the Conservation of the Statutes aforesaid in the *Thames*, from the Bridge of *Stains* to *London*, and from thence over the same Waters, and in the *Medway*, as far as is granted to the Citizens ^k.

THE Standing of Nets and Engines, called *Trincks*, and all other Nets, fastned Day and Night to Posts, Boats, and Anchors, over the *Thames*, and other Rivers, shall be wholly defended, and every Person that selleth them, shall forfeit to the King 100 s.

PROVIDED that it shall be lawful to the Possessors of *Trincks*, if they be of Assize, to fish with them, in all seasonable Times, drawing them by Hand, as other Nets, saving to every of the King's People their Rights in Fishing ^l.

AND in the Year 1448, an Act of Parliament was made, whereby the Mayor of *London* was to have the Rule of the River of *Thames*, from *Stain's* Bridge to the Waters of *Yenland* ^m.

AGAIN, in the Year 1448 ⁿ, the Mayor of *London*, and his Successors, having the Conservation of the River of *Thames* from the Bridge

^k By 17 *Rich.* II. Cap. 9. ^l See 2 *Hen.* VI. Cap. 15. *A.D.* 1423. — See also *Harven's* in *Raft.* 3, 12. Co. 89.

^m Stat. 4 *Hen.* VII. Cap. q. v. *inter Act. irrotulat. in Canc.* ⁿ By 4 *Hen.* VII. Cap. 15 & 16.

of *Stains* to the Water of *Yendal* and *Medway*, shall have the like Conservation and Authority in all the Issues, Breaches, Creeks, and Grounds overflown, as far as the Water eb- beth and floweth (as touching the Punishment for using unlawful Nets and Engines in fish- ing) as he hath within the said River of *Thames*, provided the Mayor of *London* have not the Conservation in the said Breaches, &c. within the King's Ground, or within the Fran- chises of others *.

THE like Power is granted † to the Ma- yor of *London*, in Breaches and in Creeks, as in the River, so far as it eb- beth and floweth, ex- cept in the King's Grounds, or in the Liber- ties, and Franchises of others.

AND it was also enacted, that whereas, be- fore this Time, the River of *Thames*, among all other Rivers within this Realm, hath been accepted and taken ; and as it is indeed, most commodious and profitable unto all the King's liege People, and chiefly of all other fre- quented and used, and as well by the King's Highness, his Estates, and Nobles, Merchants, and others, repairing to the City of *London*, and other Places, Shires, and Countries ad- joining to the same ; which River of *Thames* is, and hath been, most meet and convenient of all other, for the Safeguard and Ordering of the King's Navy, Conveyance of Merchan- dizes, and all other Necessaries, to and for the King's most honourable Household, and other-

* See 1 Charter *Edw.* IV. *Haven's* in *Raft.* 6. *Cable's* Stat. *Cook's* Instit. 4. p. 250. † By 11 *Hen.* VII. Cap. 15.

wife, to the great Relief and Comfort of all Persons within this Realm, till now of late divers evil disposed Persons, partly by misordering of the said River, by casting of Dung, and other Filth, laid nigh to the Banks of the said River, digging and undermining of the said Banks and Walls, next to the said River, carrying and conveying away of Way-shides, Shore-piles, Boards, Timber-work, Balast for Ships, and other Things from the said Banks and Walls in sundry Places; by Reason whereof great Shelves and Risings have of late been made, and grown in the Fair-way of the said River, and such Grounds as be within the Level of the said Watermark, by Occasion thereof, have been surrounded and overflowed, by Rage of the said Water, and many great Breaches have ensued and followed thereupon, and Daily are like to do; and the said River of *Thames* to be utterly destroyed for ever, if convenient and speedy Remedy be not sooner provided in that Behalf.

FOR the Reformation whereof, be it enacted *, established, and ordained, by the King our Sovereign Lord, and by the Assent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That if any Person, or Persons, hereafter do, or procure any Thing to be done, in the Annoying of the Stream of the said River of *Thames*, making of Shelves by any Manner of Means, by Mining, Digging, Casting of Dung or Rubbish, or other Thing, in the same River, or take, pluck, or convey any Boards, Stakes,

* By 27 Hen. VIII. Cap. 18. A. D. 1535.

Piles, Timber-work, or other Thing, from the said Banks or Walls (except it be to amend, and the same to repair again) or dig, or undermine any Banks, or Walls, on the Water-side of *Thames* aforesaid, to the Hurt, Impairing, or Damage of any of the said Walls or Banks: Then the same Person, or Persons, and every of them, shall forfeit and pay, for every Time so offending, one Hundred Shillings; the one Moiety thereof to be to the King our Sovereign Lord, and the other Moiety thereof to the Mayor and Commonalty of *London*, by Bill or Plaint, Writ of Debt, or Information, severally against every Offender, in any of the King's Courts; in which Actions and Suits, or any of them, the Party Defendant shall not be affined, or wage his Law, or any Protection to be allowed the same.

AND it is farther enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that if Complaint shall happen to be made to the Lord Chancellor of *England*, Lord Treasurer, Lord President of the King's Council, Lord Privy-seal, or to any of them, by any Person or Persons, or Body Politick, that Sir *Thomas Spert*, Knight, now having the Office and Ordering of, and for Balancing of Ships, or any other that shall hereafter have the Office and Order of Balasting of Ships, do take any Balast for Ships near the said River of *Thames*, and do not take for Parcel of the said Balasting, the Gravel and Sand of the Shelves between *Greenbith* and *Richmond*, within the said River of *Thames*, or in any other Place or Places, that is or shall be unto the Damage or Annoyance of the said River of *Thames*, or in any Part thereof; that then,
upon

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upon every such Complaint, the said Lord Chancellor, Lord Treasurer, Lord President of the Kings most Honourable Council, Lord Privy-seal, and every of them, calling both the Justices of either Bench, or one of them, shall have Power and Authority, from Time to Time, to hear, and finally determine every such Complaint by their Discretion, and to put such Order therein, for the Taking of Balast for Ships upon every such Complaint, as by their Discretion shall seem most convenient for the Preservation of the said River of *Thames*; and the Parties offending such Order, shall suffer Imprisonment, and make no less Fine than five Pounds to the King's Use, for every Time offending, or breaking the same.

PROVIDED also, and be it enacted, that it shall be lawful to every Person, and Persons, to dig, carry, and take away, Sand, Gravel, or Rubbish, Earth, or Thing, lying or being in, or upon any Shelf or Shelves, within the said River of *Thames*, without Let or Interruption of any Person or Persons, or paying any Thing for the same, any Thing contained in this present Act to the Contrary notwithstanding *.

AND be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid †, that no Person or Persons, after the first Day of *August* next coming, do cast, or unlade out of any Manner of Ship, Crayer,

* See *Raft.* 10. Havens, and Sect. vi. of this Statute. N. B. There was an Act of Common Council of the City of *London*, made in Pursuance of this Act, which is hereafter inserted in its proper Place. † By 34 and 35 *Hen. VIII.* c. 9. See *Haven's* in *Raft.* 1.

or any other Vessel, being within any Haven, Road, Channel, or River flowing, or running to any Port Town, or to any City, Borough or Town within this Realm, or any other of the King's Dominions, any Manner of Balast, Rubbish, Gravel, or any Wreck, or Filth, but only upon the Land above full Sea-Mark, upon Pain of every Person and Persons offending against this Act, to loose and forfeit, for every Time so offending, 5 *l.* the one Half to the King, the other to such Person or Persons as will sue for the same, by Bill, Plaint, original Writ, or Information, in any of the King's Courts of Record, in which Action or Suit, no Wager of Law shall be admitted, or any Effoin or Protection allowed.

NEITHER * shall any Person kill any Spawn or Fry of Eels, Salmon, Pike, Pickerel, or other Fish, in any Floodgate, Pipe Tail of Mill-wear, or in any Streams, Brooks, or Rivers, Salt or Fresh, or kill any Salmon, or Trout not in Season, being Kepper or Shedder, Salmon or Trout.

NEITHER shall any Person kill any Pike or Pickerel, not being in Length 16 Inches, nor Trout, not being in Length 8 Inches, nor any Barbel, not being in Length 12 Inches.

NEITHER shall any Person fish, or take Fish, with any Nets, Trammel, Keep, Wore, Creel, or other Device, but only with Net or Trammel, whereof every Mesh or Mask shall

* By 1 *Eliz.* Cap. 17, Sect. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. See 39 *Eliz.* Cap. 10. Sect. 6, 7. & 43 *Eliz.* Cap. 9. Sect. 33.

*As per Ind. Fish. m. c.
Salmon not being*

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be two Inches and a Half broad. Angling excepted.

AND in all Places where Smelts, Roaches, Minnies, Bullheads, Gudgeons, or Eels, have been used to have been taken, it shall be lawful only for the Taking of the said Smelts, Roaches, &c. to use such Nets, Leaps, and other Devices, as have been used; so that such Persons, using such Nets, &c. do not take or destroy any other Fish with the said Nets, contrary to this Statute.

AND if any Person shall offend contrary to the Points aforesaid, such Person shall forfeit 20 s. and the Fish so taken, and also the unlawful Nets and Instruments, wherewith such Offences shall be done.

* THE Lord Admiral, the Mayor of *London*, and all other Persons, which have Conservation of any Rivers, or Waters, shall have Power to enquire of all Offences committed contrary to this Act by the Oaths of twelve Men, or more, and to hear and determine the same Offences.

FORFEITURES, by reason of such Convictions, shall be to the Use of every of the Persons, being no Body Politick or Corporate, before whom such Conviction shall be had; and to the Use of every such Body Politick or Corporate, as have had any such Forfeiture for any Offence committed in their Conservacies, upon Conviction had before the Head of such Body Politick or Corporate.

* This confirms the Lord Mayor's holding his Courts of Conservacy, and to hear and determine Offences.

THE

THE Lord of every Leet shall have Power to enquire of Offences, contrary to this Statute ; upon Presentment in Leet, by Oath of twelve Men.

IF Offences touching the destroying of Fish or Spawn be not presented at the Leet, within one Year after the Offence committed, the Justices of the Peace in their Sessions, Justices of *Oyer and Terminer*, and Justices of Assizes, shall have Power to enquire thereof, and to hear and determine the Offences contrary to this Statute : Saving to all Persons all Right and Conservation *.

No Person † shall wilfully kill or expose to Sale any Spawn, Fry, or Brood of Fish, or Spatt of Oysters, or any unsizeable, small, or unwholsome Fish, or catch and destroy any Fish out of Season, or expose such Fish to Sale, or knowingly buy, receive, or use any such ; and no Person shall fish for or wilfully hurt or destroy any *Salmon*, or *Salmon* kind of Fish within the said Limits, between the 24th of *August* and the 11th of *November*.

AND it shall be lawful for the Lord Mayor, upon Application of the Court of Assistants, to order Stakes to be driven in any Place within the River between *London* Mark Stone, above *Stain's* Bridge, and *London* Bridge, for the preserving the Fry, Spawn and Brood of

* This Act was only to endure to the next Parliament ; but was afterwards made perpetual by 3 *Charles* I. Cap. iv. Sect. 1 & 4. 16 *Car.* I. Cap. iv. Sect 2. See also Statute 1 & 2 *Will. & Mary*, restoring and confirming the City Privileges and Charters.

† By 9 *Ann.* Cap. xxvi. *A. D.* 1710.

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Fish, so as the same be no Ways prejudicial to the Navigation; and no Person shall, without lawful Authority, remove the same*.

THE Court of Assistants shall yearly, by equal Portions, on the Feast Days of *Easter*, and *Michaelmas*, pay to the *Water Bailiff*, or his Assigns, 30 *l.* free from Taxes, in Lieu of such antient Fees as were due to him, and which will be diminished and taken away by this Act, except the Granting of Licences to take Fish in their several Seasons, the Benefit whereof is intended to be continued and saved unto the said *Water Bailiff*, over and above the said Sum of 30 *l.* *per Annum*.

THAT the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of *London*, or any one of them, for all Offences committed within the Jurisdiction of the Lord Mayor, as Conservator of the River; and the Justices of the Peace of the respective Counties, or any of them, for all Offences committed within the Jurisdiction of the Lord Mayor, as Conservator of the River; and the Justices of the Peace of the respective Counties, or any of them, for all Offences committed out of the Conservatorship, shall have Power, upon View or Complaint, to examine, hear and determine, by the Oath of any Person, or by Confession of the Party, all Offences committed against this Act, and, upon Conviction, to impose a Fine not exceeding 10 *l.* nor less than 5 *s.* to be levied on such Offenders Goods, at the Discretion

* See *Cay's Abridg* of Stat. 9 *Hen.* III. Cap. xxiii.
 25 *Edw.* III. Stat. 4. Cap. iv. 45 *Edw.* III. Cap. ii.
 1 *Hen.* IV. Cap. xii. 4 *Hen.* IV. Cap. xi. 1 *Hen.* V.
 Cap. ii. 12 *Edw.* IV. Cap. vii.

of the Lord Mayor, Alderman, or Justices, unless such Offenders pay such Fine, or give Security to such Magistrate to abide such Order as shall be made by the Court of Conservancy, upon such Conviction made by the said Lord Mayor and Aldermen, or at the Quarter Sessions, upon Conviction made before the Justices, in case the Offender shall appeal; and in case no Distress can be found, the Offender shall be sent to the House of Correction, to be kept to hard Labour for any Time not exceeding two Months.

AND all Penalties arising by this Act for Offences committed within the Jurisdiction of the said Conservator, shall be to the Mayor as Conservator, and all Penalties for Offences committed out of the Jurisdiction of the Conservator shall be paid, one Moiety to the Poor of the Parish, and the other Moiety to such Person as shall prosecute.

SAVING to the Queen, and all Courts, and Persons all Fines, Forfeitures, &c.

THIS Act shall not prejudice or derogate from the Rights, Privileges and Authorities exercised by the Lord Mayor, as Conservator of the River of *Thames* and Waters of *Medway*, or elsewhere; or the Fishings appertaining to the City of *London*, or to any other City or Town Corporate, or to any Lords of Manors, Owners of Rivers or Fisheries, or to the Rights of any Person.

THIS Act shall be a publick Act; and, in Case any Action shall be prosecuted against any Person, for what he shall do in pursuance of this Act, such Person shall plead the general Issue.

No Fish shall be sold more than once within the Market, or within 150 Yards of *Billingsgate* Dock ; nor shall any Persons, other than Free Fishmongers in their Houses, and Shops, within 150 Yards of the said Dock, and not in the Market of *Billingsgate*, and other than Fishermen, or the first Importers of, or Persons bringing up, such Fish to the Market, their Wives, Apprentices, Factors, or Servants, hired for that purpose, sell, or expose to sale, any Fish at the said Market, or within 150 Yards of the said Dock.

No Fish shall be sold or exposed to Sale on Board or on Shore (within the Limits of the said Market, or within 150 Yards of the Dock) before Three o'Clock in the Morning, from *Lady-Day* to *Michaelmas*, and before Five o'Clock from *Michaelmas* to *Lady-Day* ; and the proper Officer shall Ring the Bell at the Time aforesaid.

NOTHING in this Act shall extend to any Fishermen or Drudgermen, who shall dwell in any of the *Cinque Ports*, or their Members, or in the City of *Rocheſter*, or Towns of *Stroud*, *Chatham*, *Finsbury*, *Gillingham*, *Milton*, *Queensborough*, *Feverſham*, *Whitſtiple*, or the Places adjacent.

It ſhall be lawful for the Court of Affiſtants of the Company of Fiſhermen of the River of *Thames*, to make By Laws and Ordinances for the Government of the ſaid Company, ſo as the ſame be firſt approved of, or amended by the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of *London*, and likewise allowed and confirmed, according to the Statute : And there ſhall be yearly elected by the next Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen,
after

after the 10th of *June*, out of the six Wardens of the said Company, to be nominated by the Court of Assistants, one Person to be Master of the said Mystery of Fishermen; and out of the twelve Assistants, to be nominated as aforesaid, six Wardens of the said Art (whereof the *Water Bailiff* of *London* shall be one) and in like Manner out of sixty of the Commonalty, to be nominated, as aforesaid, thirty Assistants; which Master, Wardens, and Assistants, or sixteen of them, with three of the said Wardens, shall be the Court of Assistants of the said Company, and shall meet on the first *Thursday* in any Calendar Month in the Hall of the said Company, for reforming Abuses in the said Fishery, and for the Governance of the said Company; to which Court the *Water Bailiff* shall be always summoned: And the said Court of Assistants shall call before them all such Persons as shall use to Fish or Drudge within the Limits of the said Fishery, as common Fishermen or Drudgermen, and cause every such Person, being duly qualified, or having served on board of his Majesty's Ships for two Years, to have his Name registered by the Court of Assistants, with the Place of Abode, and the Name of every Apprentice or Servant belonging to him in the Trade; and shall cause some Mark to be placed on every Boat and Craft, which shall be used in Fishing or Drudging within the Limits aforesaid; which Figure, or Mark, shall not be changed; and every one duly summoned by Direction of the Court of Assistants, to appear before them, in order to serve on board her Majesty's Na-

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vy, who shall, without lawful Cause neglect to appear, shall be sent on board her Majesty's Navy, and be disabled from fishing two Years *.

By Inquisition.

By *two Inquisitions* †, the one taken at *Raynham*, the other at *Gravesend*, before Sir *William Cambridge*, Grocer, then Lord Mayor of *London*.

WHERE it was presented, That whereas, by the antient *Ordinances* of *London*, the Meshes of Nets should be two Inches in the fore-part, and one Inch in the hinder-part; and it being found that the Offences according to the said Inquisition are contrary to *Libertates & Consuetudines Civitatis*, i. e. the *Liberties and Customs of the City*; it was adjudged, that the Nets should be *burnt*, according to the antient Custom in that Behalf provided.

By Decrees.

By *Decrees*, ‡ *A. D.* 1406, the Mayor and Aldermen of *London*, exhibiting their humble Petition to the King's Council, reciting, Whereas They have had, Time out of Mind, the Conservation and Correction of the River of *Thames*, and of all Trincks, Nets, and other Engines whatsoever, in the River of *Thames* and *Medway* placed, and have used to make a Sub-Conservator under them; and complained, that *Alexander Bonner*, then Sub-Conservator, having done his Duty in removing Kiddals, he was evil intreated by the Owners; the same Owners dwelling in *Erith*, *Pratrisferry*, *Barkin*, *Woolwich*, and other Places, in the Counties of *Kent* and *Essex*.

* See 1 *Geo. I.* Cap. xviii. Sect. 7. † 9 *Hen. V.* *A. D.* 1420. ‡ Upon hearing *Coram Rege ipso & in Camera Stellata*.

AND

Privy Coun.

AND upon hearing of the Matter in the *Star-Chamber*, they were found guilty, and constrained to submit themselves to the Lord Mayor, and ordered (always) to bring their Nets to the Lord Mayor before they should use them.

AND that the Kiddals then taken, should be at the Disposal of the Lord Mayor ; and the Offenders made their Submission accordingly *.

By *Letters Patents*, a Grant was made by *By Letters* King *Edward the Fourth*, to the Earl of *Patents.* *Pembroke*, for building a Wear in the River of *Thames*, which Grant was cancelled at the Request of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, upon shewing of their Right, for that it was contrary to their antient Liberties †.

AT which Time, the City's Title to the Conservacy of the River of *Thames* and *Medway*, was at large set forth, and is recited to have been shewn to the Lord Chancellor, and to the Earl, and his Council, and was afterwards allowed, and the Patent thereupon cancelled.

By *Proclamation* : Whereof one was made *By Procla-* by King *Henry the Eighth* † ; wherein it was *mation.* affirmed, that the Lord Mayor, and his Predecessors, have had, by divers Grants of the Kings of *England*, and by Acts of Parliaments, and have also long enjoyed the Conservacy of *Thames*, without Interruption or Impediment.

* *Richard Whittington*, Mayor. † *Richard Lee*, Mayor ; And Mr. *Stowe*, upon *Stowe's Survey of London*, in Vol I pag. 37. says, there is a Record of Patent remaining in the *Tower* for this Purpose, *An. 9 Edw. IV. p. 2. In. 7.* † In the 34 Year of his Reign, *A. D. 1542. John Cootes*, Mayor.

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AND by the same Proclamation, it was commanded, that none should Resist, Deny, or Impugn the Lord Mayor, and his Deputy, in doing or executing any Thing for the Conservacy of the River, and the Fish and Fry within the same.

By Report
of the
King's
Counsel.

By Report of the King's Counsel learned; for a Controversy being between the Lord Admiral, and the Lord Mayor, for the Measuring of Coals, and other Things, upon the *Thames*, it then fell into Debate, to whom the Conservacy of *Thames* did belong.

WHICH Cause (*Anno Dom. 1597*) was by the Lords, of the Queen's (*Elisabeth*) most honourable Privy-Council, referred to the then Attorney, and Solicitor-General, who jointly certified, among other Things, that the Conservacy and Care of the River *Thames*, did, and ought to belong to the City of *London*. *

By Quo
Warranto.

By Quo Warranto: In the 3d of King James the First, A. D. 1605. A Quo Warranto was brought against the City in the *Exchequer*, to know by what Title she Claims the Conservacy of the River *Thames*, and Waters of *Medway*.

WHEREUPON the City made her Title good thereunto, by antient Prescription, and otherways, so Judgment was given to her Favour. †

AND to end all further Disputes about this City's Prerogative, the King was pleased to grant that memorable Charter, which I have before recited. *Vide*, p. 85.

* *Anno Regni, 40.* Sir Richard Saltensfall, Mayor.

† Sir Henry Hollyday, Mayor.

By

By *Records* in the *Tower*. *Vide*, 2d Vol. By *Re-*
 Page 167. By the 21st of *Edward the Third*, ^{*cords in*}
A. D. 1347, it is recorded, that whereas, the ^{*the Tower.*}
 four great Rivers of *England*, viz. *Thames*, *Tese*,
Owse, & *Trent*, were wont from Antiquity,
 to be open and free for every Ship to pass
 with Merchandizes, and now of late, daily the
 said Rivers are stopped, and turned aside by
 Goors, Mills, Piles, and Pales, erected by eve-
 ry Lord, against his own Lands, so as Ships
 cannot pass without Danger; that Justices
 may be assigned in every County to enquire
 of this Business, and to remove the Oppres-
 sion.

THE King is pleased that such and so many
 Commissions shall be granted, as reasonably
 as shall be needful, and that every Man shall
 be heard, that will complain for himself and
 the King *.

By the 25th of *Edward the Third*, *A. D.*
 1351 †; it is enacted, that the Statute of *West-*
minster, made against the Destruction of Sal-
 mons may be kept, and that all Mills set on
 Rivers may be thrown down.

N. B. *The Print for pulling down of Mills*
set upon Rivers, Cap. 4. *agreeth with the*
Records.

It is enacted, that the Act made in the last
 Parliament, Cap. 8. shall take Effect, as well
 on the River *Thames* as elsewhere.

In the 37th of *Edward the Third*, *A. D.*
 1363, ‡ it was petitioned, that a Remedy might

* Taken from Sir Robert Cotton's Abridgment.

† Thomas Legge, Mayor.

‡ Andrew Awbrey,

Mayor.

be found against Wears, and such other Engines on Rivers, to the Annoyance of Boats.

To which the City received this full Answer ; that the Statute thereof made, shall be kept *.

IN the 50tieth of *Edward the Third*, A. D. 1376, It was petitioned, for the saving of Salmon, and other Fryes of Fish in the *Thames* almost destroyed by certain Engines, as the King himself hath often found : That, therefore, all Trincks between *London*, and the Sea, may be overthrown, and that no Salmon shall be taken between *Gravesend*, and *Henly* upon *Thames* in the Kipper Time, viz. between the *Invention of the Cross*, and the *Epiphany* ; and that no Nets be laid in the *Thames*, unless the same be of large Mesh of Affize.

To which it was answered, that the Statutes thereof made, shall be kept, and Commissioners appointed for the Enquiry of the same.

It was also petitioned, that the Wears upon the River, called *Braint*, in the County of *Middlesex*, Parcel of the River of *Thames* may be taken away.

To which it was replied, that the Statutes thereof made, shall be executed †.

By another Petition in the 51st of *Edward the Third*, A. D. 1377, it was prayed, that certain Engines used to the Destruction of Fish, and called, *Wendor*, in the Manner of a Drag, being used in Havens and Creeks, may be forbidden ‡.

* *John Notte*, Mayor. † *Adam Staple*, Mayor.
‡ *Nicholas Brembyr*, Mayor.

In the 50tieth of *Edward the Third*, A. D. 1376, the Watermen of *London*, complaining of leaving Locks, Stanks, and Wears, upon the River of *Thames*, and namely a Lock, called, *Hameldon* Lock, and for that there is a Custom demanded of them, passing the Bridges of *Stains*, *Windsor*, and *Maidenhead*, and other Locks, against their Custom.

It was answered, that for the Locks, and Kiddals, the Statute made in the 47th of *Edward the Third*, shall be executed. And for exacting Money of them, at the Bridges aforefaid, or elsewhere, against their Franchises; they shall make their Suit in the Chancery, and have their Writs grounded on their Liberties to stay such takings*.

By Petition from the City, the 51st of *Edward the Third*. A. D. 1377, it was prayed, that all Charters heretofore granted, may be allowed and confirmed, albeit they never were before,

And it was answered, That they shall be allowed, as duly heretofore hath been†.

In the 8th of *Richard the Second*, A. D. 1384, it was petitioned, that no Man take any of the Fry of Fish in the River of *Thames*, unless the Meish of the Net be according to the Statute, therefore provided†.

And in the 9th of *Richard the Second*, A. D. 1385, they require, that the Patent lately made to the Constable of the *Tower of London*, whereby the Collector of his Office, taketh Customs of Wines, Oysters, Muscels, Rushes,

* *Adam Staple*, Mayor. † *Nicholas Brembyr*, Mayor.

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and other Victuals, coming to *London* by Water, may be revoked *.

AND the Petition of the Lord Mayor and Commonalty of *London* was endorsed.

By Petition from the City, the 14th of *Richard the Second*, A. D. 1390, it was prayed, that a Remedy may be had against Mills, Stanks, Kiddals, and such like Engines and Devises levied upon the *Thames*.

To which it was answered, that the Statutes thereof made, shall be observed †.

IN the 16th of *Richard the Second*, A. D. 1390. It is enacted, that all Filth upon the Side of *Thames*, next the House of *Robert de Partis*, shall be utterly removed; and that in some Place, before *Easter* then ensuing, That the Butchers of *London* do build convenient and fit Houses, whereinto they may, from Time to Time, bring all their Ordure, Entrails, and other Filth, and the same in Boats, carried into the Middle of the *Thames*, and there cast the same at a full Water, when it first beginneth to Ebb; and further, that no Person do throw, or Cause to be thrown, or laid, any Filth or Odure, Muck, Rubbish or Laystage, in the same Water of *Thames*, of the one Side, or the other, between the Palace of *Westminster*, and the *Tower of London*, on Loss of 10 l. ‡

THE 1st of *Henry the Fourth*, it was prayed, that no Barge on the River of *Thames*, be forfeited as a Dead; and it was answered, to be as heretofore. ||

* *Nicholas Brembyr*, Mayor. † *Adam Bamme*, Mayor. ‡ *William Stondon*, Mayor. *Thomas Knolles*, Mayor.

IN the 2d of *Henry the Fourth*, A. D. 1400, it was prayed, that all Estanks, Kiddals, Wears, and Mills, raised upon Rivers to Annoyance, at what Time soever, may be removed.

AND it was answered, that the Statutes thereof shall be observed *.

IN the 2d of *Henry the Fifth*, A. D. 1414, the Mayor and Commonalty of *London*, prayed, that all Kiddals, Wears, Fishgarths, Stanks, Mills, and Stakes, and all other Engines levy-ed, or made upon the Water of *Thames*, *Medway*, and *Ley*, should utterly be laid down.

IT was answered, that the Statutes therefore provided, shall be executed, and further in all Commissions touching the *Water Bailiff*, the Mayor, or Keeper of *London*, for the Time being, shall be one †.

IN the 7th of *Henry the Fifth*, A. D. 1419, there was a long Complaint and Prayer made of Redress of Stanks, Stakes, Kiddals, Mills, &c. levied upon Rivers to great Annoyances.

AND it was answered, that the Statutes thereof made, shall be observed.

IN the 6th of *Henry the Sixth*, A. D. 1427, it was prayed, that the Mayor, and Keeper of *London*, for the Time being, may have the Execution of the Statute of Sewers, touching the River of *Thames*.

And it was answered, let them shew the Bound of their Liberty, and they shall be answered.

IN the 4th of *Edward the Fourth*, 26 of *January*, A. D. 146³/₄; among sundry Acts, and

* *John Fraunces*, Mayor.
Mayor.

† *Thomas Faulkoner*,

Ordinances, &c. There is one particular Provision, *viz.* That the Mayor of *London*, in Succession, shall have the Search, View, and Correction of the River of *Thames*.

Second, In Point of USAGE.

By *antient*
Ordi-
nances.

By *ancient Ordinances*, the Lord Mayor and Aldermen have (Time out of Mind) made Ordinances concerning the good Government of the River of *Thames*, for the Times and Manners of Fishing beneath *London* Bridge, eastward, to be observed upon Pains; as likewise westwards, as may appear from the several Orders already mentioned.

By *Punish-*
ment of
Offenders.

By *Punishment of Offenders*. For it appeareth that (from Time to Time) from the Time of King *Henry the Third*, and so downwards, the Lord Mayor hath removed Kiddals, Wears, Trincks, and other unlawful Engines, and hath reformed the Disorders of such as have offended in the River of *Thames*, and punished the Offenders, sometimes by Imprisonment, sometimes by Fines, and by burning of unlawful Nets.

By *Writs*
and *Pre-*
cepts.

By *Writs and Precepts*. Writs * were issued to the Sheriffs of *Essex* and *Kent*, reciting the City's Title, with command not to suffer the Citizens of *London* to be molested, contrary to the Liberties formerly granted and allowed unto them.

PRECEPTS under the Seal of the Lord Mayor to the Sheriffs of *Kent* and *Essex*, for returning of Juries before the Lord Mayor,

* 1 *Richard II. An. Dom. 1377.*

to enquire of Offences done in the River of *Thames* ^a.

N B. *The which is still annually continued for the four Countries adjoining to the Thames.*

By *Accounts*. In the Office of the Cham- By *Ac-*
berlain of *London*, from the 17th of *Richard* counts.
the Second, to the 11th of *Queen Elizabeth*,
it appeareth, that the *Water Bailiff* of *Lon-*
don hath made Search for unlawful Nets in the
Waters of *Thames* and *Medway*.

By *Commissions*. In the 9th of *Henry the* By *Com-*
Fifth, a Commission was made to the Lord missions.
Mayor, to put in Execution the Acts of Par-
liament made for the Conservacy of *Thames*
and *Medway*, and to enquire of all Offences
made or done in the said Waters, and to pu-
nish the Delinquents.

A like Commission ^b, 3d *Henry the Sixth*,
A. D. 1424.

A like Commission ^c, 1st *Elizabeth*, *A. D.*
1558.

A like Commission ^d, 1st *James the First*,
1603.

AND all those, or the like Commissions in
this Case, were and are directed to the Lord
Mayor for the Time being.

By *continual Claim*. In the 37th of *Henry* By *conti-*
the Eighth, *A. D.* 1545, Letters came from ^{nual}
the Lord Admiral for the stay of such Mat- Claim.
ters as were then in Question between his

^a *Nicholas Brembyr*, Mayor.
Mayor.

^c *Sir John Leigh*, Mayor.
Thomas Bennet, Mayor.

^b *John Michel*,
^d *Sir*

Lord-

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Lordship and the City, concerning the Jurisdiction of this City upon the *Thames* ^a.

IN the 3d of *Edw. the Sixth*, A. D. 1549, it was ordered, that the Chamberlain should take Care for stay of certain Inquests, charged by Vertue of a Commission directed to the Lord Admiral, to enquire of Abuses used in Fishing beneath the Bridge ^b.

IN the 4th of *Edward the Sixth*, A. D. 1550, the Master Common Serjeant was appointed to repair to the Duke of *Somerset*, and to inform his Lordship of the City's Authority in pulling down Wears within the River of *Thames* ^c.

IN the 6th of *Edward the Sixth*, A. D. 1552, it was ordered, that Suit should be made to the King's Majesty, and his Council, for the Determination and Allowance of the City's Jurisdiction and Interest in the River of *Thames* ^d.

IN the 1st of *Mary*, A. D. 1553, a great Number of the Fishermen of the East-side of *London*, present in the Court of the Lord Mayor of *London*, were commanded to obey the *Water Bailiff*; and that one *Hunter*, of the Admiralty, should be warned to be before the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, at the next Court to be holden for the same Matter ^e.

IN the 1st of *Elizabeth*, A. D. 1558, there were certain Committees appointed to confer with the Lord Admiral, touching the Controversy between his Honour and the

^a Sir *Martin Bowes*, Mayor.

Mayor.

^c Sir *Andrew Jude*, Mayor.

Geo. Barnes, Mayor.

^b *Rowland Hill*,

^d Sir

^e Sir *Thomas White*, Mayor.

City, concerning the Conservacy of the River of *Thames*^a.

IN the 3d of *Elizabeth*, A. D. 1560, certain Committees were appointed to attend the Lord Admiral concerning the Jurisdiction of the River of *Thames*^b.

IN the 7th of *Elizabeth*, A. D. 1564, the Lord Admiral was to be conferred with, touching the City of *London*'s Jurisdiction in the River of *Thames*^c.

IN the 13th of *Elizabeth*, A. D. 1570, the Lord Admiral was to be moved, that the City may enjoy their Liberties in *Thames* and in *Medway*^d.

IN the 17th of *Elizabeth*, 1574, the Aldermen, and others, were to confer with the Lord Admiral for the City's Title in the River eastward^e.

IN the 23d of *Elizabeth*, A. D. 1580, Mr. *Norton*, and others, were appointed to attend on the Lord Treasurer of *England*, and to inform his Lordship touching the City's Title to the Conservacy of the River of *Thames* below *London* Bridge^f.

IN the 23d of *Elizabeth*, 1580, Sessions were appointed for the Conservacy of the River of *Thames*, the 9th of *October*, at *Barking*, in *Essex*, and on *Wednesday* following to be kept at *Woolwich* in *Kent*^g.

IN the 24th of *Elizabeth*, A. D. 1581, certain

^a Sir *Thomas Leigh*, Mayor.
Chester, Mayor.

^b Sir *William*

^c Sir *Richard Molorie*, Mayor.

^d Sir *Rowland Heyward*, Mayor.

^e *James Hawes*,

Mayor.

^f Sir *John Branch*, Mayor.

^g Sir

John Branch, Mayor.

Burley

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Aldermen were appointed to treat with the Lord Admiral touching the Conservacy^a.

IN the 29th of *Elizabeth*, A. D. 1596, the Aldermen had appointed to the Lord Admiral, for to inform his Lordship touching the City's Right to the Conservacy of the River of *Thames*, from *London Bridge* to *Yenland*, and the *Reculvers*^b.

Preamble on the Fishermen's CHARTERS.

Preamble
on Fisher-
men's
Charters.

THAT the Reader may still see what *Authority, Jurisdiction* and *Conservacy*, the City of *London* has long enjoyed, and ought to enjoy on the *Thames*, I shall here adjoin two Charters, granted for incorporating a Company of Fishermen on this River, the one by King *Charles the First*, the other by King *James the Second*; wherein it may be observed, how far that Body of Men then were, and still ought to be, under the Subjection, Rule, and Government of the City of *London*.

FOR, by these very *Charters*, the Company were not empowered to make any one By-Law or Ordinance for their own Government, or in relation to Fishing, without first having the said City's Allowance and Approbation, and subject to this Alteration and Amendments. That their *Water Bailiff*, if he pleased, was always to be present, as Warden or Super-intendant for the City, in all their Assemblies, or Meetings, and to be assisting and advising therein.

^a Sir *James Harvie*, Mayor.
and Sir *Henry Billingsley*, Mayors.

^b *Thomas Skinner*

IN short, so cautious and tender was the Crown of infringing in these *Charters*, on the Jurisdiction of the City, that, in both of them, there is a particular Provision made, that neither of them shall any Ways prejudice or effect the Privileges, Conservacy and Superintendancy of the City of *London*, or the Lord Mayor thereof, in any Thing concerning the said River, or Fishing in the same.

AND which said *Charters*, as well as said *Jurisdiction* and *Authority*, are still more fully explained and confirmed in an Act of Parliament that passed in the Ninth Year of the Reign of her late Majesty Queen *Anne*, for the Revival of these Charters and Company: When (on bringing their Bill for the same, into the House of Commons) they attempted to gain a concurrent Jurisdiction on the *Thames* with the City of *London*, in order to become, by Degrees, independent of it, by endeavouring to invade and obtain several of its antient and just Privileges, some of which were, the having the Penalties arising by their Bill (which were, among other Things, for fishing with unlawful Nets, taking of unsizeable Fish, and fishing out of Season; all which Offences were, and still are, punishable at the Courts of *Conservacy*) to be to the Use of their own Company: So that, in effect, it would have been transferring that Power and Authority which was vested in the City to the Company, and giving to them those Fines, which are by Charter * granted to the City.

* Chart. 14 Charles I.

THEY would likewise have had the Power, in Conjunction with the *Water Bailiff*, of giving Deputations to seize unlawful Nets, &c. which Power had always been and is exercised by the *Water Bailiff*, as Sub-Conservator. [And this would have been such a concurrent Jurisdiction with that of the City, as would be highly dishonourable in them to admit of].

THEY would also have joined the Clerk of their Company, with the *Water Bailiff*, in appointing the Seasons for Fishing, and granting of Licenses for Fishing in such Seasons, which has ever been the undoubted Right * of the said *Water Bailiff* solely, to grant in Vertue of his Office held under the City, and as Sub-Conservator.

AND, lastly, They would have had the Binding of their Apprentices, and of admitting or making such Free Fishermen, the which, with the appointing the Seasons, and granting of Licenses, must plainly appear to have been Privileges of the City's, and, as such, are Perquisites of his Office, not only from the City's antient Orders † made and established long before the Company was incorporated. But, by the very and said Act that passed, in Consequence of their Bill, and on the City of *London's* having, by their Council, proved and made good their undoubted antient Right and Custom to the abovesaid Authorities, Privileges and Per-

* — antient Orders, p. 126. Sir Robert Duncy's Orders, p. 64. 9 *Anne*, Cap. xxvi. Sect. 4. p. 113. Fishermen's By-Laws.

† — antient Orders, p. 126. Sir Robert Duncy's Orders, p. 64.

quisites,

quisites, thus strongly attempted to be invaded and taken from them, it manifestly appears that they do belong to the said City, and long have been, and are Perquisites appertaining and enjoyed by their Office of *Water Bailiff*; and, as a final Argument of which, I shall refer the Reader to the fourth Section of this said * Act; and it was but very lately that some such Innovations and Infringements were offered again on a Bill being prepared to be brought into the House of Commons, for Reviving the said Company.

AND indeed, these very Authorities, Privileges and Perquisites, are but a small Recompence, in Comparison to that very great Expence the City of *London* is annually at, in its Searches after Nuisances, illegal Fishings, &c. on this said River, and in holding of Courts of Conservacies for the Conservation and Preservation of it and its Fishery.

AND notwithstanding the Company were, by their said Charters, and this said Act, empowered to assemble, make By-Laws, &c. yet the very Restrictions they were under, in their Courts of Assistants, being annually to be elected, their By-Laws subject to be allowed, altered or amended with others, by the Court of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of *London*, seems evidently to imply, as if the City had but even so far made a Concession of their Jurisdiction and Authority, merely for the Good of the Fishery, as such a Body (of Fishermen) were undoubtedly very fit and proper Judges for the forming

* *Vide* p. 114.

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and compiling of such Rules, Orders and By-Laws, as would be most conducive to and for the Benefit and Improvement of the said Fishery.

An Abstract of the CHARTER granted by King Charles the First, to the Company of Fishermen of the River of Thames, A. D. 1634.

Abstract of
the Fishermen's 1st
Charter.

KING Charles the First, by Letters Patents, dated the 29th of May, 1634, in the Tenth Year of his Reign, incorporated divers Persons, exercising Fishing in the River of *Thames* and *Medway*, and all others inhabiting, or that should inhabit in the Counties of *Middlesex*, *Surry*, *Essex* and *Kent*, and in the City of *London*, using the Craft of Fishing in the River of *Thames*, and Places adjacent, from the Bridge of *Stains* westward, and so to *London Bridge* eastward, and from thence to *Yendal*, alias *Yenlet*, and the Waters of *Medway*, in the said Counties, and so far up the River *Medway*, till they meet with the Liberties of the City of *Rocheſter*, and all other Waters within the said Precincts, and commonly using no other Handicraft, and having served as Apprentices in the Craft Trade or Mystery of a Fisherman, seven Years, or more, by the Name of the Wardens, Assistants and Commonalty of the Art or Mystery of Fishermen of the River *Thames*: With Power (*inter alia*) to assemble in some Place within the City of *London*, or Suburbs thereof; and with the Allowance and Consent

sent of the Lord High Admiral of *England* for the Time being, or his Lieutenant; the Judge of the Court of Admiralty, or other executing that Place, and of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of *London*, for the Time being, to make Ordinances for the good Rule, Government, Survey, and Ordering of the said Company, and of all Persons whatsoever, using and exercising the Art or Mystery aforesaid within the said Precincts; as also for the Preservation of the Brood, Spawn, and Fry of Fish, and for Declaration with what Nets and Engines, and at what Times they shall use Fishing, and for Reformation and Preventing of Abuses and Inconveniences, &c. &c.

AND with such Allowance and Consent, to limit Pains and Penalties, by Fines and Amerciaments, or by any other lawful Means, upon all Breakers of such Ordinances.

THE *Register* and *Marshal* of the Court of Admiralty, and the *Water Bailiff* of *London*, his Deputy, or Deputies, to be present at such Assemblies, if they think fit, and to sit with the said Wardens and Assistants, and to advice and assist them: And to that End, the said Wardens and Assistants, are to give them Notice of the Times and Places of their Assemblies.

THE King granting to the Company, the Fines forfeited by the Breach of such Ordinances; Saving to the Admiralty, and the Officers of the Court of Admiralty, all Fines forfeited by the Breach of any of the said Ordinances, within the Precincts aforesaid, from *London* Bridge eastward: And Saving

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to Them Power to levy and take the same, according to the Custom of the said Court.

WITH Power also to elect eight Wardens, and eighteen, or more, Assistants, a Clerk, and a Beadle: The Wardens so elected to take their Oaths of Office, before the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen of *London*, or the Judge of Admiralty, and the Assistants to take their Oaths of Office before the Wardens of the said Commonalty and Assistants.

To continue in their Offices for one whole Year, and till other Wardens and Assistants shall be chosen.

THE King thereby also ordaining, That no Person in the said Society, shall directly or indirectly, take any Apprentice for any less Term than seven Years.

AND that no Person shall use the said Art or Craft of Fishing within the Places aforesaid, unless he shall have served as an Apprentice to the said Trade for seven Years at the least.

PROVIDED, That this Grant shall not prejudice the Privileges, Authority, Conservancy, and Super-intendency of the Lord High Admiral of *England*, and the Judge of the Court of Admiralty; or of the City of *London*, or the Mayor, or the Mayor and Aldermen; or the Mayor, Commonalty and Citizens of *London*, in any Thing concerning the said River of *Thames*, and Places aforesaid, and the Fishing in the same. But that it shall be lawful for the Lord Admiral, &c. &c. and all other their Officers and Ministers, to keep Court, Rule, Govern, Direct, Fine, Amerce,

Amerce, and Order the said Fishermen, within the said Precincts of their Governments, and Jurisdiction, in as large and ample a Manner as They, or any of Them had done, or ought to have done, according to their antient Customs and Privileges, concerning the same.

THEN the *Charter*, reciting, That the King is informed, that the Disorders and Abuses in Fishing, cannot be reformed, but by the daily and present Punishment of the Offenders, which may be speedily done by the Authority of the Court of Admiralty, none other having Power, as the *Charter* asserts *, with such Expedition, to arrest their Boats and Persons upon the River of *Thames*, from *London* Bridge eastward, nor Power otherwise to proceed against them, but upon Presentment at their Courts, which are not holden above twice in a Year: So that, in the mean Time, great Spoil is made by those Offenders: And that, within the Limits aforesaid, Anchors, Cables, Boats, Masts, Yards, Flotsen, Jetson, Lagon, and other Goods, are often found, and taken up by Fishermen, and Others, and concealed, which ought to be presented to the Court of Admiralty, to the End that the Losers of the same may thither repair, and there to hear of their Goods again, and so obtain Restitution, where Restitution ought to be made.

THE said Wardens and Assistants, and every of them, and every one of the said Com-

* But, *Query*, Whether the Court of Admiralty has any such Power?

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monalty, are directed, that as soon as they shall have Notice, of any Breach of any such Orders and Constitutions of the said Company, in Matter of Fishing from *London Bridge* eastward, or of any Anchors, Cables, Boats, Masts, Yards, Flotson, Jetson, Lagon, or other Goods, so found and concealed, to present the Names of the Offenders and Concealers, with the Quality of their Offences, and the Particulars of the Goods, so found and concealed, to the Court of Admiralty. And likewise, for that from *Stain's Bridge* to *London Bridge*, many such Goods are often found and taken up by Fishermen, and Others, and concealed, which ought to be presented to the like End, to the Lord Mayor of *London*: The like Presentment is directed to be made of the Breach of all such Orders and Concealments, from *Stain's Bridge* to *London Bridge*.

N.B. THIS is the Substance of that *Charter*.

An Abstract of the CHARTER, granted by King James the Second, to the Company of Fishermen of the River of Thames, A. D. 1687.

Abstract of
the Fishermen's 2d
Charter.

BY another *Charter* granted by King *James the Second* (*An. Reg. 3*) dated the First of *July*, A. D. 1687 (Reciting, that the Free Fishermen of the River of *Thames* stood incorporated by King *Charles the First*, in the tenth Year of his Reign; the Powers and Privileges whereof, had been for several Years past,

past, almost extinguished for Want of due Execution) upon Resignation of the said *Charter*, renews, and confirms the same, and nominates one Master, ten Wardens, and twenty Assistants of the said Company, in Order to take Care, by making good Orders, That the Fry and Spawn of Fish, be not destroyed, and that common Nufances in the said River of *Thames*, and of the *Medway*, and that Goods imported or exported, the same (the Customs not being paid) may be the better discovered.

HIS Majesty therefore, incorporates the said Master, Wardens and Assistants, Inhabitants of the Counties of *Middlesex*, *Surry*, *Essex* and *Kent*, and in the City of *London*, and all others then inhabiting, or which should inhabit in the said Counties and City; using, or that should use, the said Craft of Fishing, in the said River of *Thames*, and Places adjacent, from the Stone, called *London Mark-Stone*, westwards of *Stain's Bridge*, and so to *London Bridge*, eastwards; and from thence to *Yendall*, alias *Yenlet*, and the Waters of *Medway*, in the Counties of *Kent*, *Essex*, *Middlesex* and *Surry*, and so far up the River *Medway*, till they meet with the Liberties of *Rocheſter*; and all other Places, from the *North Foreland* in *Kent*, to *Harwich* in *Essex*, which is commonly reputed the Mouth of the River of *Thames*; and all other Waters within the Precincts aforesaid, not using any other Handycraft, and shall have served, and have been brought up as an Apprentice, in the Mystery of a Fisherman, for seven Years, or more, into one Body Corporate, by the Name of
the

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the Master, Wardens, Assistants, and Commonalty of the Art, or Mystery of Fishermen of the River of *Thames*; to have perpetual Succession, and with Power to purchase, and receive, grant, alien, and assign Lands and Chattels; to sue and defend, and to have a Common Seal: That ten of the said Society shall be Wardens, and twenty others of the Commonalty, or more at the Directions of the Master, Wardens, Assistants, and Commonalty, shall be Assistants, and assisting in all Causes and Business. That the said Master, Wardens, and Assistants, from the Time being, shall, from Time to Time, assemble in some convenient Place in the City of *London*, or the Suburbs thereof, by the Direction of the Master, and Major Part of the Wardens, and Assistants, to be appointed on publick Summons; and may, in such Assemblies, make fit and reasonable Laws, &c. &c. which to them, or the greater Part, shall seem profitable for the Government of the said Company, and of all Persons, using the Art of Fishermen; and for Declaration, in what Manner they shall demean themselves, in their said Offices and Art; and for Declaration, with what Manner of Nets and Engines, and what Times, they shall use Fishing: And for Reforming, and Preventing former Abuses and Inconveniencies, and for the Preservation of the Spawn and Fry of Fish; and for the publick Good of the said Company: With Power to provide Pains and Penalties, by Fines and Amerciaments, to such Laws, &c. &c. At which Assemblies, the *Water-Bailiff*

†

of

of *London*, may be present, and sit with them, and assist them in their Proceedings.

AND the King farther grants to the said Company, all Forfeitures, Pains, Penalties, Fines and Amerciaments, for not observing the said Laws, &c. &c. to their own Use, saving to the *Admiralty*, all Fines due to that Court, by Reason of the said Laws, as hath been accustomed, so as they be reasonable and not repugnant to the Laws of this Realm; and approved by the Judge of the Court of *Admiralty*, or the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of *London*. And the King appoints the said Master and Wardens aforementioned, to continue in their said Offices, until the Feast of *St. Peter*, 1688; and from thence, until ten others of the Assistants, be chosen Wardens, as aftermentioned; if they shall so long live, and shall not be removed by the Major Part of the Wardens and Assistants, for Misbehaviour: And he appoints the said twenty Persons, to be presented Assistants, and the other aforementioned Wardens, to be Assistants, when their Wardenships expire; they to be all sworn before they enter upon their Offices, *viz.* the new Master and Wardens, before the old Master and Wardens, or any two of them; and the Assistants before the Wardens for the Time being. The said Master, Wardens, and Assistants, or the major Part of them, have Power yearly, on the Feast of *St. Peter*, or if that be on a *Sunday*, the next Day, or at some other Time, as they, or the major Part shall think fit, in their Assemblies aforesaid, to chuse out of the Wardens, a Master, and out of the Assistants, ten Wardens, for a Year ensuing,

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ensuing, and till a new Master and Wardens shall be chosen and sworn : And if any of the said Master and Wardens die, or leave the Office, or be removed from the Office ; then the other Wardens and Assistants being assembled for that Purpose, on Notice, may chuse a Master out of the Wardens, and also Wardens out of the Assistants, to supply the Number of Master or Wardens, till the Feast of *St. Peter* ; and others be chosen and sworn. And, in Case of the Death of any of the said Assistants, that others be chosen in the like Manner, out of the Commonalty, to supply the said Number of twenty, or more Assistants.

THE Master, Wardens and Assistants to elect a Clerk for his Life, and to appoint two or more Beadles, with Power to displace them upon just Cause, and elect others in their Room, and administer Oaths to them, for the due Execution of their Office. And they have Power to purchase a Hall, and any other Lands, not exceeding the Value of 500 *l. per Annum*.

AND it is ordained, That no Person of the said Society, shall take an Apprentice, for less than seven Years, and no Person (not using the Craft of Fishing, as common Fishermen, without any other Art to live by) shall use the said Craft, as common Fishermen, without they shall have served as an Apprentice for seven Years at least, to that Trade. Provided, that this Grant shall not prejudice the Privileges, Conservacy, and Super-Intendancy of the Court of *Admiralty*, or of the City of *London*, or Lord Mayor and Alder-

Aldermen. And for that many Anchors, Cables, &c. &c. or other Goods, are found and concealed, which ought to be presented to the Court of *Admiralty*, that the Loofers may have Restitution, the Master, Wardens, Assistants and Commonalty, and every of them are commanded, as soon as they shall have Notice of the Breach of any of the said Orders and Institutions, to be made and allowed as aforesaid, in Matters of Fishing; or if any Anchors, Cables, &c. &c. or other Goods found and concealed, as aforesaid, that they present the Names of the Offenders and Concealers, and the Quality of the Offences, and the Particulars of the Goods, found and concealed, to the Court of *Admiralty*, that Punishment may be inflicted on the Offenders; and the like Notice to be given to the Lord Mayor, or *Water Bailiff*, that Restitution may be made. Provided, that every one of the said Master, Wardens, Assistants and Commonalty, when they shall be commanded by his Majesty, or by the Lords of the Privy-Council, or any six of them, shall forbear selling to any Denizens or Aliens, any Fish taken on any of the King's adjacent Coasts, to be transported out of the Realm, to any Places, beyond the Seas, for so long as they shall be so restrained, under Penalty of the King's Displeasure, and Punishment according to Law.

PROVIDED, That the said Master, Wardens and Assistants, shall yearly become bound to the King, by Obligations signed and delivered before the Lord Mayor, in two-hundred
I Marks,

Marks, on Condition, that none of the said Master, Wardens, Assistants and Commonalty shall lade any Goods into any Ship or Vessel; unless the Customs, &c. have been duly paid or satisfied, and shall give Notice of all other Goods, they shall receive out of any Ship or Vessel, into any Boat, to the Customers, Searchers, or Officers of the Place; to which Bonds so signed, sealed and delivered, the Lord Mayor, and some of the Precedent Wardens, for the Year past, shall be Witnesses, and the same shall be delivered in two Days, by the Precedent Wardens, to the King's Attorney-General; who, thereupon, shall deliver up the last Year's Bond, if there appears no Cause to the contrary. The Master, Wardens, and Assistants are to take Care that no Foreign prohibited Fish be imported, except licensed for the King's own Use: And that there be no Forestalling, or Engrossing in the publick Fish-markets, that supply the City of *London*, but to acquaint the Justices of the Peace therewith, that the Offenders may be punished. Power is reserved to the King, by Order in Council, to remove any Master, Warden, Assistant, or Clerk of the said Company, whose Office shall thereupon be *ipso Facto*, void, and another shall be chosen into the said Office.

PROVIDED, That all Laws and Ordinances to be made by the said Master, Wardens and Assistants, shall first have the Allowance of the Judge of the Court of *Admiralty*, and the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen of *London*.

AND

AND the *Water Bailiff* shall have Notice of all their Assemblies. The said Master, Wardens and Assistants, to be subject and obedient to the said Court of *Admiralty*, and to the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, concerning the Conservacy of the said Rivers and the Fishing therein.

As a farther Proof of the City's Right to the Jurisdiction of the River of *Thames*, and for the better Information of the Reader's Knowledge in the Passage or sending of Goods, &c. by Watermen, Lightermen, or Bargemen, on the said River, I shall now set down an Abridgment, or the Heads of the several Statutes relating to the forming and governing of the Company of Watermen and Lightermen, with the Rates of Passengers, and Carriage of Goods: In which the Authority and Power that the City of *London* has therein, will more manifestly appear.

THE first Statute relating thereto is in the Statutes 2d and 3d of *Philip* and *Mary*, Cap. xvi. wherein it was enacted, That the first Court of Aldermen of the City of *London*, shall chuse eight Overseers, out of the Watermen between *Gravesend* and *Windsor*, for the keeping good Order among them.

A PENALTY of two Months Imprisonment on any two Watermen carrying any Person, without one of them hath been allowed by such Overseers, and hath exercised that Profession two Years.

concern-
ing Water-
men and
Water
Carriage,
viz. 2 & 3
Philip and
Mary,
Cap. 16.

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NONE to work as Watermen singly, unless he has served his Time as such, for two Years at least, on like Pain.

THE Lord Mayor and Aldermen of *London* and Justices of the Peace, are impowered to hear and determine any Offence against this Act, and also to relieve Watermen oppressed by their Overseers, and to punish them accordingly.

2 and 3
Philip and
Mary
Cap. 16.

ALL Wherries not 12 Feet and half long, 4 Feet and a half broad in the Midship, and sufficient to carry two Persons on one Side right, are to be forfeited.

PENALTY on Watermen withdrawing themselves in Times of Pressing, imprisonment for a Fortnight, and prohibited Rowing a Year and a Day.

THE Overseers to make Rules and Orders for their Government, examine their Boats before Launched, &c. Penalty 5 *l*.

PENALTY on any refusing to take such Office.

WESTERN Bargemen to be answerable for their Servants, and whom to employ as such.

* THE Court of Aldermen to assess the Fares of Watermen, and 40*s*. Penalty, with half a Year's Imprisonment on Watermen taking more.

By Statute 8th *Elizabeth*, Cap. xiii. Sect. 4. all Sea-faring Men, dwelling near the *Thames*, and licensed by the *Trinity-House*, may Row and carry Passengers in their Wherries, as other Watermen do, who are to be drawn

* *Vid.* 6 H. VIII. Cap. vii.

under no other Government but the said *Trinity* Office.

No Waterman is to take a Servant or Apprentice, unless he hath been an Apprentice as such for five Years before, with the Age, and Time, of Service of their Apprentices.

THIS Act not to hinder Watermen's Sons formerly trained up in Rowing, and of sufficient Age, &c. to work as such.

THE eight Overseers to cause their Orders to be read openly in their Common Hall twice a Year.

THE Lord Mayor of *London* may summon any Person inhabiting within *London*, or its Liberties, to appear before him, upon Complaint of any Citizen; and, for Non-appearance, may grant his Warrant against him, and hath Power to hear and determine Differences between Party and Party.

If any Apprentice, or other Person, shall be carried on board a Ship, and there detained against his Will, the Lord Mayor may send his Warrant by his *Water Bailiff*, and compel the Captain or Commander of the Vessel to release such Person.

THE Statute 11th and 12th of *William the Third*, Cap. xxi. confirms all other Acts relating to this Company, and not altered hereby. Lightermen to be of the same Society and Company of Wherry-men and Watermen.

WHO are to be subject to the same Rules and Orders; but *Trinity-men*, Fishermen, Ballastmen, Western Barges, and Mill Boats, Chalk Hoys, Faggot and Wood Lighters, and other Craft carrying the same, are *excepted*.

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THE Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen to elect annually eight Watermen and three Lightermen to be *Overseers* and *Rulers* of the said Company, to maintain good Order, &c.

THE said Rulers and Assistants to chuse sixty, and not less than forty of the Watermen, and nine of the Lightermen, to be Assistants of the Company, and who shall yearly present to the said Court of Aldermen five Watermen, and two Lightermen, to be Auditors of the Company's Accounts, with a Penalty on refusing, or not well performing such Offices, and which Rulers, Auditors, and Assistants, are empowered to make Rules and Orders, with Penalties, for the good Government, &c. of their Company, but to be first approved by the said Court of Aldermen, and after by the Lord Chief Justice of either Bench.

11 and 12
W. III.
Cap. 21.

THE Lord Mayor and Aldermen, and Justices of the Peace in their Jurisdictions, adjoining to the *Thames*, between *Gravesend* and *Windsor*, on Complaint of such Overseers and Rulers, to hear and determine Offences against this Act, and levy the Penalties by Distress.

LIGHTERMEN not registering themselves and Servants in the Company's Books, by the 29th of *September*, to forfeit 5 *l.* a Week for working any such Vessel, &c.

PENALTY on any one (*Trinity-men* excepted) who shall Row or Ply on the River in Boats, for carrying of Passengers for Profit, unless Watermen, their Servants or Apprentices; and how the Penalties of this Act are to be paid.

OWNERS

OWNERS, &c. of any Keys betwixt the *Hermitage* Bridge and *London* Bridge, may use their Lighters as heretofore, employing qualified Watermen or Lightermen; and Woodmongers may use their Lighters by themselves, or Servants, for carrying their own Goods only.

PERSONS keeping Laystalls and Gardeners may carry their own Goods, &c. as heretofore.

OFFENCES against this Act to be prosecuted within thirty Days.

PERSONS may plead the general Issue, if prosecuted for any Thing done in pursuance of this Act.

THE Rulers, &c. to appoint forty Watermen to Ply every *Sunday* between *Vaux-hall* and *Lime-house*, for carrying Passengers across the River, at a Penny each: How that Money is to be applied.

THIS Act not to impeach the Duke of *Richmond's* Right, as Lord of the Manor of *Gravesend*, for holding the Court of Water-Course, for the better governing of Barges, Boats, &c. ferrying from *Gravesend* to *London*.

NOR hinder the Watermen of *St. Margaret's, Westminster*, for Plying cross the River from *Westminster* Bridge to *Standgate*, and from the *Horse-ferry* to *Lambeth* Bridge on *Sundays*, &c. for the Benefit of their own Poor and Widows, &c.

THE next Statute is the 4th and 5th of *Anne*, ^{4 and 5} *Anne*,
Cap. xiii.

SECT. I. Repeals the Clauses in the 1st of *Cap. 13.*
Jac. I. Cap. xvi. that restrains the taking of
Apprentices till they arrive at the several

The CONSERVACY *of*

Ages of eighteen and sixteen, and every Rule made for restraining of any Lighterman or Waterman from taking Apprentices.

SECT. 2. The Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen to review, alter and amend all the By Laws of the Company.

4 *Anne*,
Cap. 19.

THERE was another Act passed the 4th Year of this Queen *Anne*, Cap. xix. Sect. 18.

WHEREIN there is a Penalty of one Month, and being disabled from any Privilege of a Waterman, &c. for two Years, on any such Waterman, &c. absconding from serving on board his Majesty's Navy, on being summoned thereto, &c. &c.

2 *Geo* II.
Cap. 26.

ALSO another Act, passed in the 2d of his present Majesty King *George*, Cap. xxvi.

WHEREIN it is enacted, That no Waterman shall take an Apprentice, unless he be an House-keeper, or have some known Habitation, which he is to Register with the Clerk of the Company, on Penalty of 10*l*. on Conviction before the Lord Mayor, or Justice of the Peace, by Distress, &c. the Clerk of the Company to register Watermen's Habitation, and Removal, without Fee.

No Apprentice to take on him the sole Care and Management of any Boat till he be sixteen, if a Waterman's, or 17 Years of Age if a Landman's Son, unless he hath worked with an able Waterman for two Years at least, on Pain of 10*s*. upon the Master.

How Offenders against the Company's Rules and Orders are to be punished, in case no Distress is to be found.

~~2 *Geo* II.
Cap. 26.~~

ANY Person rowing on the *Thames* for Hire or Gain, and not having served seven
Years

Years Apprenticeship to a Waterman, &c. (*Trinity-men*, Fishermen, Ballast-men, and Persons employed in the Western Barges, Mill Boats, Chalk Hoys, Faggot or Wood Lighters, Dung Boats and Gardeners Boats) shall forfeit 10 *l.* to be levied as aforesaid.

THE Number of the Company's Assistants to be reduced to thirty for the future.

THIS Act not to prejudice the Right of the Lord of the Manor of *Gravesend*, for holding his Court of Water Course, &c.

NOR to prejudice any Grants or Usages held by the Mayor, &c. of *Gravesend* and *Milton*.

THE Lessees, Owners and Occupiers of any Keys betwixt the *Hermitage* Bridge and *London* Bridge, may use their Lighters for carrying their own Goods, &c. to it from their Keys and Wharfs, and Ships loading and unloading, and may employ any Waterman or Lighterman, duly qualified, as is in the said Act of 11 and 12 of *William the Third* directed.

How the Penalties and Forfeitures of this Act are to be sued for and applied; and all Prosecutions to be commenced in a Month.

ALL Constables and Headboroughs to be aiding and assisting in the due Execution of this Act; and in Case of any Suit being commenced against any Person for any Thing done in pursuance of this Act, or any former Act relating to the Water Service, &c. the Action to be brought in thirty Days, and such Person may plead the general Issue, &c. &c.

THIS Act to be deemed a publick Act, &c.

3 Geo. II. Cap. 11. THERE is another Statute of 3 George II. Cap. 11, which relates to the Commissioners, for regulating the Prices to be taken for the Passage of Barges, &c. the Navigation of the *Thames* and *Isis*, from *London* westward to *Cricklade*, &c. by the Owners of Locks, Wears, &c. and all other Redresses, Regulations, &c. (not derogating from the Jurisdiction of the Lord Mayor, &c. of *London*) Sect. 18. Every Bargemaster, and the Owner of the Barge, &c. shall be answerable for any Damage done by his Barge, &c. or any of the Crew, either by fishing with Nets, taking any Game, or to the Locks, Bridges, &c. adjoining to the River, &c. &c.

4 Geo. II. Cap. 24. THERE is likewise another Statute, 4 George II. Cap. 24. wherein Ferry-boats are not to be deemed large Craft, and flatt bottomed Boats and Barges, navigated from *Windsor*, or any Place between that Town and *Kingston* to other Places on the River, shall be deemed Western Barges, and may navigate as far as *London* Bridge; and Persons navigating the same, shall not be subject to the Penalties of Stat. 2 George II. Cap. 26.

10 Geo. II. Cap. 31. THERE is also another Stat. of 10 George II. Cap. 31. which relates to Wherries, Tilt-boats, Barges, and other Vessels, for carrying Passengers and Goods between *Windsor* and *Gravesend*, for Hire, wherein the Age, Time of Service, &c. relating to the Apprentices is mentioned.

No Tilt-boat, Rowbarge, or other Boat, to carry more than thirty-seven Passengers, and three more Passengers only, if brought on Board by the Way: Nor to carry in any other Boat,

Boat, or Wherry, more than eight Passengers, and two more only, if called in by the Way; nor to carry in any Wherry or Ferry-boat, allowed to work on *Sundays*, more than eight Passengers. Penalty on every Tilt-boat, on Conviction, by the Oath of one Witness, &c. 5 *l.* for the first Offence, 10 *l.* for the second Offence, and for the third Offence, to be disfranchised for 12 Months; and in Case any greater Number shall be carried in any Tilt-boat, &c. and any Passenger drowned, every Person, who shall work such Boat, and convicted, shall be guilty, and punished as a Felon.

ALL Tilt-boats to be of fifteen Tons Bur-^{13 Geo. II.} then, and other Boats, not less than three^{Cap. 31.} Tons Burthen, in the long Ferry, between *London Bridge*, and *Gravesend*, except such Boat, shall be hired for private Use, on Penally, 10 *l.*

GRAVESEND Wherries, with a close Deck, or with Bails nailed to the Boats, and which are not moveable, for carrying of Passengers for Hire, between *London Bridge*, and *Gravesend* (Tilt-boats only excepted) are not there to be used, on Penalty of 10 *l.*

SUCH Persons loosing their Tides, to and from *London Bridge*, and *Gravesend*, either negligently or wilfully, by putting on Shore, for Passengers (except as is herein directed) or by waiting by the Way, by Means whereof the Passengers shall be landed two Miles short, such Passengers shall be discharged from paying their Passages.

THE Rulers of the Company shall appoint Officers, to ring a Bell for fifteen Minutes,
every

every high Water at *London Bridge*, and the first of Flood at *Gravesend*, and if any Boat plying for Passengers, or having Passengers on board, does not immediately depart, and proceed, after the Ringing of such Bell, without lying or putting on Shore, within two Miles of *Billingsgate*, or *Gravesend*, for the taking in of Passengers; or if any such Boat, during the whole Ferry, shall not be navigated by two able Men, the younger to be eighteen Years of Age at least, the Owner of such Boat, shall forfeit 5 *l.* on Conviction of the Oath of one Witness, before any Justice, where the Offence was committed, or the Offender found, half to the Informer, &c.

PENALTY of 50 *l.* on such said Rulers, neglecting to put up such Bells, and appointing Officers to ring them.

FORTY Shillings on such Person, not duly Ringing the said Bells.

How the Penalties (no otherwise here directed) are to be levied.

THE Penalties may be sued for by the Rulers of the Company, or any two of them.

NOTHING herein shall hinder any Person from Working any flat-bottomed Boats or Barges, entitled to work by 4 *Geo. II*, Cap. 24.

SUITS prosecuted for any Thing done in pursuance of this Act, shall be commenced within six Months after the Fact, and shall be brought in *London*, *Middlesex*, *Surry*, *Effex*, *Kent*, *Bucks*, or *Berks*, and the Defendant may plead the general Issue, and recover treble Costs.

* THIS Act to be a publick Act.

* See 3 *Geo. II*, Cap. 26. Sect. 1.

I shall

I shall in the next Place insert, a Table of the Rates or Prices, appointed by the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen of the City of London, to be taken by the Watermen, rowing from Place to Place, upon the River of Thames, between Gravesend, and Windsor, which are as follows:

Rates of the Watermen, down the River, whole Fare, or with Company, in Oars or Scullers.

Rates below London Bridge.

	Fare.	Comp.	A Table of Watermen's Rates.	
F ROM London to Gravesend	4 6	0	9	
From London to Grays, or Greenbith	4 0	0	8	
From London to Purfleet, or Erith	3 0	0	6	
From London to Wolwich	2 6	0	4	
From London to Blackwall	2 0	0	4	
From London to Greenwich, or Deptford	1 6	0	3	
	Oars.	Skulls		
From London Bridge to Limehouse, Newcrane, Shadwell Dock, Bell Wharf, Ratcliff Cross	1 0	0	6	
From London Bridge to Wapping Dock, Wapping new, and old Stairs, the Hermitage, Rotherbith Church-Stairs, and Rotherbith Stairs	0 6	0	3	
		From		

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From St. Olave's to Rotherbith	}	o	6		o	3
Church-Stairs, and Rotherbith Stairs						
From Billingsgate, or from St. Olave's to St. Saviour's Mill	}	o	6		o	3
Over the Water directly, in the next Skuller, between London Bridge and Limehouse						

Rates of Oars and Skullers, above London Bridge.

	Oars.	Skul.
From any Stairs, between <i>London</i> Bridge and <i>Westminster</i>	6	3
From either Side above <i>London</i> Bridge to <i>Lambeth</i> and <i>Vauxhall</i>	1	4
From <i>Black-Friers</i> , <i>Dorset</i> , or <i>Temple</i> Stairs, or from <i>Paul's</i> Wharf to <i>Lambeth</i>	8	4
From <i>Whitehall</i> to <i>Lambeth</i> , or <i>Vauxhall</i>	6	3
Over the Water directly in the next Skulder, between <i>London</i> Bridge and <i>Vauxhall</i>	0	2

Rates up the River.

		Fare.	Comp.		
FROM London to Chelsea, Battersea, or Wandsworth	}	1	6	0	3
To Putney, Fulham, Barn-Elms	2	0	0	4	

To

	Fare.	Comp.
To Hammersmith, Chiswick, or } Mortlack	2 6	0 6
To Brentford, Isleworth, or } Richmond	3 6	0 6
To Twickenham	4 0	0 6
To Kingston	5 0	0 9
To Hampton-Court	6 0	1 0
To Hampton Town, Sunbury } and Walton	7 0	1 0
To Walton, Weybridge, and } Chertsey	10 0	1 0
To Stains	12 0	1 0
To Windsor	14 0	2 0

As to the Rates for carrying of Goods and Passengers in the Tilt-Boats, between London and Gravesend; they are as followeth.

	l.	s.	d.
F OR half a Firkin	0	0	1
For a whole Firkin	0	0	2
For a Hogshead	0	2	0
For a Hundred of Cheese, Iron, } or any heavy Goods	0	0	4
For a Sack of Salt, or Corn	0	0	6
For an ordinary Chest or Trunk	0	0	6
For an ordinary Hamper	0	0	6
For every single Person in the } Passages	0	0	6
For the Hire of the whole Tilt- } Boat	1	2	6

After what has been said of the Rates and and Fares, to be demanded by Watermen, plying,

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plying, or exercising their Boats, within this Jurisdiction, perhaps, the Reader will not be displeased to hear in what Manner, Barges of a large Burthen are navigated, and their Goods carried up and down this River westwards, from and into the very Heart of the Kingdom ; I shall, in the next Place, give an Account of the Navigation of this River of *Thames*, from its Beginning at *Lechlade*, till it comes to *Stain's* Bridge, a little above which commences, as hath been said, the City of *London's* Jurisdiction, with an Account of all the Locks, that are built thereon, especially as they are an Invention so useful to the Publick ; and by Means of which, Tradesmen and Farmers are enabled to send their Goods to an advantageous Market, and at the same Time, the most populous Cities are supplied with Necessaries of all Sorts, at a moderate Price.

Of the
Locks,
&c. on the
Thames.

To explain this, we need only observe, that the principal Obstruction to the Navigation of most Rivers, being the Want of Water, especially in the Summer Time, when the Springs are low ; in Order to remedy this Inconvenience, in the River *Thames*, which is now navigable, 138 Miles, above *London* Bridge, the Use of Locks was happily invented, which are a Kind of wooden Machines, placed quite a-cross the River, and so contrived, as totally to obstruct the Current of the Stream, and dam up the Water, as long as it shall be thought convenient. By this Artifice the River is obliged to rise to a proper Height, that is, till there is Depth enough for the Barge to pass over the Shallows ; which done, the confined Waters are
set

set at Liberty, and the loaded Vessel continues its Voyage, till another Shoal requires the same Contrivance, and again retards its Course.

BUT though this Method is extremely convenient, it is attended with great Charge to the Navigators or Bargemen, for they are obliged to pay in one Voyage near fourteen Pounds, I mean, if they pass through all the Locks in their Passage to or from *London*. This extraordinary Expence is chiefly owing to the Locks being the Property of private Persons, who raise a large annual Income therefrom; which may be readily estimated, if we consider that 300 Barges pass and repass, at least six Times in a Year; and yet, which is still more surprising, the Charge of the Locks is not above one third of the Expence of a single Voyage, but which would greatly be reduced, and the Carriage of Goods consequently become cheaper, were there proper Regulations for their Navigating, &c. their Vessels, duly established.

BUT that the Reader may still have a clearer Notion of this Matter, I shall subjoin a List of all the Locks on the River *Thames*, with their Distance from each other, and the Price the Barges are obliged to pay; and herein it is to be noted, that though between *Lechlade* and *Oxford*, there are few or no Locks, yet in Summer, when the Water is low, they pay what is here set down for Flashes only.

Places

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Places.	Distance by Water. Miles.	What paid.		
		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
<i>Lecblade to St. John's Bridge,</i>	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	6
Stone - - -				
<i>Busket Lock</i> ———	2	0	2	6
<i>Farmer's Wires, or Weirs</i>	1	0	1	0
<i>Lower Farmer's Wires</i> - -	1	0	1	0
<i>Day's Wires</i> ———	1	0	1	0
<i>Radcot Bridge, Stone</i> ———	2	0	0	0
<i>Beck's Wires</i> ———	1	0	0	0
<i>Oldman's Wires</i> ———	2	0	1	0
<i>Rusby Wire</i> ———	1	0	1	0
<i>Rudges</i> ——— ———	1	0	1	0
<i>Thames Wire</i> ———	1	0	1	0
<i>Ducksford Wire</i> ———	3	0	0	0
<i>Shifford Wire</i> ———	1	0	1	0
<i>Limbrefs</i> ——— ———	1	0	1	0
<i>New Bridge, Stone</i> ———	1	0	0	0
<i>Cock's Wire</i> ——— ———	1	0	1	0
<i>Noah's Ark</i> ——— ———	2	0	1	0
<i>Langley's</i> ———	2	0	1	0
<i>Pinkle</i> — ———	1	0	0	0
<i>Bolde's Wire</i> ——— ———	1	0	1	6
<i>King's Wire</i> ———	2	0	0	0
<i>Godstow Bridge, Stone</i> —	1	0	0	0
<i>Oxford</i> ——— ———	2	0	0	0
<i>Isley Turnpikes</i> ———	1	0	2	6
<i>Sandford Lock, and Turnpikes</i>	2	1	2	0
<i>Newham Lock</i> ———	2	0	2	6
<i>Culham Turnpike, and the old</i>	2	1	0	6
Lock — ———				
<i>Culham Bridge, Stone</i> —	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0
<i>Sutton Lock</i> ——— ———	1	1	15	0
Carry over 40		5	0	0
		Places		

Places.	Distance by		What		
	Water.	Miles.	l.	s.	d.
	Brought over	40	5	0	0
Day's Lock	—	6	0	1	0
Benson Lock	—	4	0	15	0
Wallingford Bridge, Stone	—	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	2	6
Mousford Lock	—	3	0	1	0
Cleve Lock	—	1	1	5	0
Goring Lock	—	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	5	0
Hart's Lock	—	2	0	0	0
Whitchurch Lock	—	1	0	15	0
Maple-Durham Lock	—	2	0	12	6
Cavershem Lock and Bridge, Wood	—	3	0	12	6
Sunning Lock and Bridge, Wood	—	3	0	10	0
Cottrel's Lock	—	3	0	7	6
Mash Lock	—	4	0	7	6
Henly Bridge, Wood	—	1	0	0	0
Hameldon Lock	—	2	0	9	0
New Lock	—	4	0	7	6
Temple Lock	—	1	0	3	0
Marlow Lock and Bridge, Wood	—	2	0	4	0
Bolter's Lock	—	4	0	7	6
Maidenhead Bridge, Wood	—	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0
Windsor Bridge, Wood	—	8	0	0	0
Datchet Bridge, Wood	—	1	0	0	0
Stain's Bridge, Wood	—	6	0	0	0
Chertsey Bridge, Wood	—	6	0	0	0
Kingston Bridge, Wood	—	10	0	10	0
Fulham Bridge, Wood	—	14	0	0	0
Westminster Bridge, Stone	—	14	0	0	0
London Bridge, Stone	—	2	0	0	0
Total			138 $\frac{1}{2}$	13	15 6

N. B. FROM this Table it plainly appears, First, That a Barge passing from *Lechlade* to *London*, pays 13 *l.* 15 *s.* 6 *d.* and from *Oxford* to *London*, 12 *l.* 18 *s.*

BUT this is a Charge only in Summer, and paid for *Flashes*, when the Water is low.

Secondly, IT also appears, that this noble Stream is navigable 138 Miles one half above *London Bridge*, and upwards of 200 Miles, from *Lechlade* to the Sea.

LIKEWISE, that there is no Lock on this River from *London Bridge* till you come to *Bolter's Lock*, which is 51 Miles and an half.

NOR will it be improper to subjoin an Order made by the Court of Rulers, Auditors, and Assistants of the Company of Watermen on the River *Thames*, forbidding any indecent Behaviour or Expression towards their Fare, or whilst Plying or Rowing on the River. It runs thus :

An Order
for decent
Behaviour
amongst
Watermen
on the
River of
Thames.

“ WHEREAS several Watermen, Lightermen, and the Apprentices of such, whilst they are Rowing, working upon the River *Thames* and at their several respective Places of resort, or plying Places, between *Gravesend* and *Windsor*, do often use immodest, obscene and lewd Expressions, towards Passengers, and to each other as are offensive to all sober Persons, and tend extremely to the Corruption and Debauchery of Youth. For Prevention therefore of such ill Practices for the future, it is hereby declared and ordained by the Court

Court aforesaid, That if any Waterman or Lighterman, after the 16th Day of *October*, 1701, shall, upon the said River, or at any Place of their Resort, as aforesaid, be guilty of using any such lewd Expressions, and be thereof duly convicted by one or more Witness or Witnesses, or by Confession of the Offender before the Rulers of this Company, he shall forfeit and pay for every such Offence the Sum of 2 s. 6 d. And if any Waterman or Lighterman's Apprentice shall herein offend, the Master or Mistress of every such Offender, (the Offender being duly convicted as aforesaid) shall forfeit and pay the like Sum of 2 s. 6 d. and in case of Refusal, the Offender shall suffer Correction, as the Rulers of this Company shall in their Discretion think fit and necessary; which said Forfeitures (when paid) shall be applied to the Use of the poor, aged, decayed, and maimed Members of the Company, their Widows and Children."

Dated at the Hall of the said Company,
this 8th Day of *October*, 1701.

E. Knight, Clerk.

To conclude : I shall here add an Act of Common Council of the City of *London*, made in pursuance of Statute 27th *Henry the Eighth*, A.D. 1538, for the Preservation of the River of *Thames*.

WHEREAS by a Statute made in the 27th Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King *Henry the Eighth*, (*Vide* Page 108.) among other, for Reformation of the River

An Act of
Common
Council
for the Pre-
servation
of the
Thames.

The CONSERVACY of

' of *Thames*, by casting in Dung and other
 ' Filth, many great Shelves, and other Risings,
 ' have of late grown, and been made within
 ' the said River: By reason whereof many
 ' great Breaches have ensued by Occasion
 ' thereof, which of like shall be the Occasion
 ' of the utter Destruction of the said River,
 ' unless that the same Law be put in due Ex-
 ' ecution, according to the true Intent and
 ' Meaning thereof.

' WHEREFORE, for a future Reformation
 ' of the same, and to the Intent that the said
 ' good and wholesome Statute may be put
 ' in more Execution, and better Knowledge of
 ' the People,

' It is enacted by the Authority of this
 ' Common Council, That Proclamation may
 ' be made within this City, and the same to
 ' be put in Writing, and Tables thereof made,
 ' and set up in divers Places of this City,
 ' That it shall be lawful to every Person or
 ' Persons, to dig, carry away, and take away
 ' Sand, Gravel, or any Rubbish, Earth, or
 ' any Thing lying and being in any Shelf or
 ' Shelves, within the said River of *Thames*,
 ' without Lett or Interruption of any Person
 ' or Persons, and without any Thing paying
 ' for the same; and after that, to sell the same
 ' away, or otherwise occupy or dispose of the
 ' said Gravel, Land, or other Thing, at their
 ' free Liberty and Pleasure.

' AND that all Paviers, Bricklayers, Tilers,
 ' Masons, and all others that occupy Sand or
 ' Gravel, shall endeavour themselves, with all
 ' Diligence, to occupy the said Sand or Gra-
 ' vel, and none other, paying for the same
 ' reason-

‘ reasonably, as they should or ought to pay,
 ‘ for other Sand or Gravel digged out of o-
 ‘ ther Men’s Grounds about the said City,
 ‘ which after is filled again with much filthy
 ‘ Things, to the great Infection of the Inha-
 ‘ bitants of the said City, and all others re-
 ‘ pairing unto the same; and that further
 ‘ humble Suit be made to the King’s High-
 ‘ ness, that all Persons having Lands or Te-
 ‘ nements along the said River-side, upon
 ‘ certain Pain by his Highness, and the Lords
 ‘ of his honourable Council, to be limited,
 ‘ shall well and sufficiently repair and maintain
 ‘ all the Walls and Banks adjoining unto their
 ‘ said Lands, that so the Water may not, nor
 ‘ shall break in upon the same, and the same
 ‘ to be continued till the Time the said noble
 ‘ River be brought again to its old Course
 ‘ and former State.

‘ AND that strong Grates of Iron, along the
 ‘ said Water-side, and also by the Street-
 ‘ side, where any Water-Course is had into
 ‘ the said *Thames*, be made by the Inhabitants
 ‘ of every Ward, so a long the said Water,
 ‘ as of old Times has been accustomed, and
 ‘ that every Grate be in Height 24 Inches
 ‘ at the least, as the Place shall need; and, in
 ‘ Breadth, one from another one Inch, and
 ‘ the same to be done with all Expedition and
 ‘ Speed.

‘ AND if the Occupiers of the said Lands
 ‘ and Tenements make Default, contrary to
 ‘ the Ordinance aforesaid, or else if any Per-
 ‘ son or Persons in great Rains, or other
 ‘ Times, sweep their Soilage or Filth off their
 ‘ Houses into the Channel, and the same

‘ afterwards is conveyed into the *Thames*,
 ‘ every Person so offending shall forfeit for
 ‘ every such Default 1 s. 8 d. and that upon
 ‘ Complaint to be made to any Constable next
 ‘ adjoining to the said Place where any such
 ‘ Default shall be found, it shall be lawful for
 ‘ the said Constable, or his sufficient Deputy,
 ‘ for the Time being, from Time to Time,
 ‘ to distrain for the said Offence, and to re-
 ‘ tain the same irreplagiable.

THERE is a like Law to be observed and kept;
 and like Penalty to be paid by every Person
 that burns Rushes and Straw in their Houses,
 or wash in the common Streets or Lanes, and
 to be recovered as aforesaid; and the one
 Moiety thereof to be to the Mayor and Com-
 monalty, and the other Moiety to be divided
 betwixt the said Constable that taketh Pain,
 and the Party-Finder of the said Default.
 And if the Constable, or his Deputy, refuse
 to do his Duty, according to the true mean-
 ing of this Act, that then the Constable, or
 his Deputy, which shall so refuse to do his
 Duty, as aforesaid, shall forfeit and pay for
 every Time so offending 3 s. 4 d. and the same
 Penalty of the Constable, to be recovered
 and obtained by Distress irreplagiable, to be
 taken by any of the Officers of the Chamber
 of *London*, to the Use of the Mayor and Com-
 monalty of *London*; and further, that no
 Person or Persons, having any Wharf or
 House by the Water-side, make not their
 Lay-stalls where the common Rakers of this
 City use to repose and lay all their Soilage,
 to be carried away by them with their
 Dung-

Dung-boats ; and that the said Rakers shall lay their said Dung, carried in their said Dung-boats, to such convenient Place or Places, as shall be appointed by the Lord Mayor of *London*, for the Time being, with the Advice of his Brethren, the Aldermen of the same, and to no other Place or Places, upon Pain to forfeit for every such Default 5 *l.* to be recovered in any of the King's Courts within the City of *London*, by Bill, Complaint, Moiety of Debt or Information, by any Person that will or shall sue for the same; the one Moiety thereof to be unto the Mayor and Commonalty of *London*, and the other Moiety to him or them that will or shall pursue for the same, in which Actions or Suits no Wager of Law nor Affoign shall be allowed.





A
 DESCRIPTION
 OF
 FISH

That are
 Caught in the River THAMES, &c.

OR
 Brought to *Billingsgate* to be Sold.



AND here I cannot think it improper to add another Chapter to this Treatise, by giving a Description and Character of the several Sorts of Fish that are either caught in the *Thames*, or even at Sea, which are brought to or sold at *Billingsgate* Market, or in *London*; as likewise their several *Affizes*; Times of *Spawning*; when best in *Season*; which most *Wholesome*, or *otherwise*; the several Statutes relating to Fish, with other Particulars: By which the Reader may the more easily and readily distinguish

guish good Fish from bad or indifferent; and when most proper, or best, to be taken or bought, or how (the real Intention of this Book) to be preserved.

So I shall begin first with those Fish which are bred in the *Thames*, westward of *London* Bridge; and then with those bred or taken in the River eastward of the said Bridge, and in the Sea, that are brought to *London*, concluding with some general Observations on the *Element* peculiar to Fish; the *Cloathing*, *Numbers*, regular *Passages* of some; the *Wars*, *Fruitfulness*, *Food*; cause of *Swimming*, and other Qualities relating to Fish.

The S A L M O N.

I SHALL begin then with the *Salmon*, who, though not altogether a fresh Water Fish, by being only a sojourner therein at certain Seasons to obey the Dictates of Nature, as is also the *Smelt*, *Shad*, and indeed the *Flounder*; yet, as he has the Honour of being called the *King* of the fresh Water Fish, and as he is spawned and chiefly bred therein, I shall include him among that Number.

THE *Salmon* is a beautiful Fish, and has so many excellent Properties, that it is every where in high Esteem. It has a longish Body, covered with small thin Scales, a small Head, a sharp Snout, and a forked Tail. The Colour on the Back is bluish, on other Parts white, generally intermixed with blackish or reddish Spots, in a very agreeable Manner.

THE

A Description of Fish.

THE *Female* is distinguished from the *Male*, by a longer and more hooked Nose; its Scales are not so bright, and its Body is speckled over with dark brown Spots, its Belly is flatter, its Flesh more dry, and not so red, nor yet is the Taste so delicious.

THE Flesh is pale, but when boiled, or salted, becomes red: It is sweet, tender, flaky, and luscious, for which Reason it satisfies the sooner; though the Taste of it is generally preferred to that of all other Fish, yet it sooner offends the Stomach by its Viscidity, and consequently is apter to create a *Nausea*, and cause a Surfeit; and the middle aged *Salmon* is the best, for if he is too old he eats dry, heavy upon the Stomach, hard, and not easy of Digestion. They are in Season from *March*, if the Weather prove warm, until *Michaelmas*.

THEIR greatest Magnitude is much the same in most Parts of *Europe*; and when they are largest, they weigh from 36 to near 40 Pounds, but is usually taken from two to three Feet long.

It has been observed by Foreigners, that there is no better *Salmon* than in *England*, and that though some of our Northern Countries have as fat and as large as the River *Thames*, yet none are of so exquisite Taste.

As the Age of the *Salmon* exceeds not ten Years, so his Growth is very sudden. It is said, that after he is got into the Sea he becomes from a *Samlet*, not bigger than a *Gudgeon*, to be a *Salmon*, in as short a Time as a *Goslin* becomes a *Goose*, and has different Names according

†

according to its different Ages : Those that are taken in the River *Thames* are five Years in coming to their full Growth ; in the first Year are called *Salmon Trouts* ; in the second a *Bolger*, the third a *half Salmon*, the fourth a *three quarter Salmon*, and the fifth a *full grown Salmon*.

SALMON PEALE is in every Respect equal ^{*Salmon*} to the *Salmon*, excepting in the Size, which ^{*Peale.*} seldom exceeds 16 Inches in length, and seems to be a Species of the *Salmon* ; they abound principally in the fresh Water Rivers in *Dorset* and *Devon*, and are a fat, luscious and flaky Fish like the *Salmon*.

THOSE little *Salmons*, called *Skeggers*, which ^{*Skeggers.*} abound in many Rivers that run into the Sea, are, by most, thought to be the Offspring of a sickly *Salmon*, which has been forcibly detained from visiting the Salt Waters : But however that be, though its Beauty is agreeable enough to the Eye, its Taste is very ordinary and insipid, and never thrive to any considerable Bigness.

THE *Salmon* chuses the Rivers for his Abode about six Months in the Year ; they enter the fresh Water about *February* or *March*, where they continue till the autumnal Season, at which Time * the Female seeks a proper Place in a gravelly Bottom, where she has been observed to work with her Head, Tail, Belly and Sides, till she has formed a Kind of *Nidus*, of the same Dimensions with herself, which done,

* Others say, she Spawns generally in *March*, sometimes in *February*.

A Description of Fish.

she discharges her *Pea* or *Spawn*, and retires ; then the Male, or *Miltor*, advances, and covers the *Spawn* with his Belly, emitting at the same Time a whitish Fluid, like Milk : This is no sooner done, but the Female returns to the Male, when they use their joint Endeavours to cover their Brood with the Gravel, in which they work with their Noses like Hogs : In which Manner they leave it to the Sun's genial Protection, who, by gentle Heat, which he infuses into that cold Element, impregnates it with Life, and produces *Samlets*, or *Salmon Smelts* ; or, as they are called by some, *Salmon Fry* early in the following Spring, the Male and Female having soon after Spawning returned to Sea, at least before Winter, unless they are stopped by Floodgates, Wears, or lost in fresh Waters, when they then grow sick, lean, unseasonable and *Kipper* ; the meaning of which Word is, that they have a bony gristle growing out of their lower Chaps, resembling a Hawk's Beak, which hinders their feeding, and occasions them in Time to pine away and die in about two Years.

BUT directly contrary of this is reported of the River *Ex* in *Devonshire*, and the Rivers *Wye* and *Urk* in *Monmouthshire*, where the *Salmon* are said to be in Season during the other six Months ; and what is still more remarkable, if true, is, that they never frequent the *Wye* and *Urk* in the same Year, for if they are found in one of those Rivers, they are sure to be wanting in the other. But however this be, it is certain that Salt Water best promotes
their

their growth, and the Fresh chiefly contributes to make them fat, and the farther they get from Sea the fatter and better they are ; and though they will make hard Shift to get out of the fresh Rivers into the Sea, yet they will labour harder to get out of the Sea into the Rivers ; and have frequently been seen to throw themselves, in their Passage either to or from the Sea, up Cataracts and Precipices many Yards high.

It is worth Observation, that the *Salmon* not only is desirous of returning back to the Rivers, but to the very River where it was spawned, as is evident by Experiment made by Fishermen, and others, who have caught them when very small, and have run a small Ribband, Tape or Thread through the Tail Fin: By this Mark they have been certain that they have retaken the same Fish at the same Place again as they returned from the Sea, and by which they have discovered the Quickness of its Growth. The *Salmon* recovers Strength and grows into Season in a Month's Time, provided he gets into the Sea, and afterwards into fresh Water.

THE *Samlet*, *Salmon Smelt*, and, as some *Samlet*, call them, *Salmon Fry*, are only so many different Names for young *Salmon*. *Salmon Smelt and Salmon Fry.*

THE chief *Salmon* Fisheries in *Europe* are along the Coasts of *England*, *Scotland* and *Ireland* ; the Fishing usually begins about the first of *January*, and ends by the last of *September*.

You ought to chuse that *Salmon* which is well fed, large enough, of a middling Age, tender,

A Description of Fish.

tender, short, reddish, and taken in fine, clear and running Water.

Laws relating to Salmon.

SALMON shall be in Defence, or not taken, from 8th *September* to St. *Martin's* Day, being 11th *November*. Stat. 13 *Ed. I.* Cap. xlvii. 17 *Rich. II.* Cap. ix.

YOUNG *Salmons* shall not be taken from the midst *April* to 24th *June*. Stat. 13 *Ed. I.* Cap. xlvii. 13 *Rich. II.* Cap. xix. 17 *Rich. II.* Cap. ix.

THEIR Spawn and Fry is not to be destroyed. Stat. 1 *Eliz.* Cap. xvii.

THEIR Assize to be six Pound weight that are sent to *London* from certain Rivers. 1 *Geo. I.* Cap. xviii.

IMPORTATION of *Salmon*. 22 *Ed. IV.* Cap. ii. 11 *Hen. VII.* Cap. xxiii. 5 *Eliz.* Cap. v. 18 *Car. II.* Cap. ii. 1 *Geo. I.* Cap. xviii. 9 *Geo. II.* Cap. xxxiii.

The TROUT.

The Trout. **T**HE *Trout* is of a longish Make, and resembles a *Salmon* more than any other Fish; his Head is short and roundish, his Nose blunt, his Body thick, his Tail broad, and his Mouth wide: He has Teeth not only in his Jaws but in his Palate and Tongue: His Eyes are large with a reddish Circle round the Pupil; his Scales are small, and his Skin easily falls into Wrinkles, and separates from the Flesh: In the larger *Trout*, the Back is of a dusky Hue, and full of black Spots, but in some mixed with red; the

the Sides are painted with Spots of a Purple or Vermilion Dye, but on the Belly they have a yellowish Cast. His Flesh is much like the *Salmon's*, and turns red with boiling; is a generous Fish, and in highest Esteem: He is the Venison of the Waters, and so like the Land Venison, that he comes in and goes out of Season with the Stag and Buck, and which is during the hot Months, and when he is prettily spotted with red Spots; and may justly contend with all fresh Water-fish, as the *Mullett* may with all Sea-fish, for Delicacy of Taste: And as there are barren Does, which are good in Summer, so are there barren *Trouts*, that are good in Winter, but there are not many of these, *Trouts* beginning to be in Perfection in the Month of *May*, and declining with the Buck.

THERE are several Rivers in *England* that are noted for good *Trout*, but none more remarkably so than what are caught near *Canterbury*, called the *Fordige Trout*, many of whom are near the bigness of a *Salmon*, but known by their different Colour.

THERE are other Rivers, especially near the Sea, that swarm with little *Trout*, called a *Samlet* or *Shegger-Trout*, and by some falsely taken for young *Salmon*, but they never grow bigger than a *Herring*.

THE *Trout* grows more suddenly than any other Fish, but does not live so long as the *Perch*, or many other Fish: When once he is come to his full growth, he declines in his Body, and keeps his bigness, or thrives only in his Head till his Death.

HE

A Description of Fish.

HE usually Spawns in *October* or *November*, though some say not till *November* or *December*, that is in some Rivers later than in others, which is the more observable, because most other Fish spawn in the Spring or Summer, when the Sun has warmed both the Earth and Water, and made it fit for Generation. He then continues many Months out of Season; so that most other Fish recover Strength and grow fat, and in Season sooner than the *Trout*; In the Winter time this Fish continues sick, lean and unwholesome. You shall find him with a big Head, and a very lank and thin Body, without those beautiful Spots which before were so ornamental to him: At the same Time many of them are infested with *Sugs* or *Trout Lice*, which is a Kind of a Worm, in shape like a Clove, or Pin with a big Head, which sticks close to his Flesh, and sucks his Moisture, and never thrives till he frees himself from them, which is when the warm Weather comes on, and then he recovers Strength, gets from the dead Still-Water, into the sharp Streams and Gravel, and there rubs off these Vermin, after which he still grows stronger.

THE *Trout* begins to be in Season in *March*; but, as I observed before, they are in the highest Season in * *July* and *August*; and, contrary to the Nature of other Fish, are not thought to be in high Season when they are fullest of Spawn, for they are fattest, have the most delicious Taste in the Months, as I have said, of *July* and *August*. A Heg-

* Others say, the latter End of *May*.

back, and a little lean, is a sign also that he is in Season.

THE Flesh is a little drier, and not quite so tender, as that of a *Salmon*, but yet it is accounted the most agreeable of all Fish that have their constant Abode in fresh Water. The best Sort of *Trout* is the red and the yellow, and of these the Female is preferable to the Male, which is known by a less Head and a deeper Body than the Male, and is also esteemed the best Meat. The Fat of a *Trout* is of a lenifying and dissolving Nature, good for the Piles, and other Distempers of the *Anus*, and Ulcers in the Breast.

WE ought not to catch *Trout*, from the Middle of *October*, till at least the End of *February*, they generally quitting the great Rivers at *Michaelmas* to go into small Rivulets to spawn, and are frequently there destroyed by idle and disorderly Persons, taking them by Groping, and other Methods, which greatly destroys the Breed thereof*.

IF any Person either kills the Spawn or Fry of this Fish, or kills it out of Season, or not being eight Inches in length, forfeits by Stat. 1 *Eliz.* Cap. xvii. both the Fish, the Nets or Instruments used, as also 20 s.

* You ought to chuse those *Trouts* that are fat, well fed, reddish, firm, savory, and not viscous, and that have been taken in fine, clear, running Waters.

*The GRAYLIN or UMBER.**Graylin,
or UMBER.*

NEXT to the *Trout* I place the *Graylin* or *Umber*, which are thought by some to differ, as well as the *Herring* and *Pilchard*. But though they may do so in other Nations, those in *England* seem to differ in nothing but the Names; unless, with some we appropriate the Name of *Umber* to a large *Graylin*, only as the large *Jack* is called a *Pike*.

THE *Graylin* is in Proportion neither so broad nor so thick as the *Trout*, and in size seldom exceeds eighteen Inches; they weigh about half a Pound, but in some Places they are said to be three times as heavy. Its Back is of a dusky Green, inclining to a Blue; the Sides are Grey, seeming to glitter with Spangles of Gold; from the Head to the Tail, in the Places where the Scales meet, there seems to be drawn so many obscure parallel Lines; the lateral Lines common to all Fish, are nearer the Back than the Belly; the Sides, except towards the Tail, are irregularly spotted with Black: It has a little Head, with protuberant Eyes, the *Iris* of which is of a silver Colour, with yellow dusky Spots; the Mouth is of a mean Size, the upper Jaw of which is longer than the lower; instead of Teeth, the Lips are rough like a File, the Tongue is smooth, the Gills quadruple.

THIS Fish may be eaten all the Year, but its principal Season is in *December*, when they are black about the Head, Gills, and down the Back, and have their Bellies of a dark grey, dappled with black Spots: The *Graylin's*

lin's Flesh, even in its worst Season, is firm, white, will easily Calver, is excellent Meat, and little inferior to the *Trout*; its observable that he is thought by some to feed on Water-Thyme, and that he smells on it, at his first being taken out of the Water, just as our *Smelts* have the Odour of Violets, at their first being caught.

It has been observed, that the *Salmon*, the *Trout*, and the *Graylin*, and all Fish that live in clear and sharp Streams, are made by Nature of the most exact Shape, and delightful Colours, as if purposely to invite us to feed on them with Pleasure. Whether this be true or not, it is certain all who write of the *Umber*, declare him to be very medicinal. The Fat of this Fish being set, with a little Honey, a Day or two in the Sun, in a little Glass, is thought excellent against *Redness* or *Swarthiness*. Some take him to be called *Umber*, from the *Latin Umbra*, a Shadow, on Account of his swift swimming, or rather gliding out of Sight, more like a Shadow than a Fish.

THE Time of its Spawning is in *May*.

The PIKE, JACK, or LUCE.

AS the *Salmon* is called the King of the *Pike*, fresh Water Fish, so is the *Pike*, *Jack*, *Jack* or *Luce*, surnamed the Tyrant of them. He ^{*Luce.*} is so very voracious a Fish, as even to devour his own Kind, and often grows to an enormous Size. The *Pike* is a fresh Water Fish, and is never found in the Sea, unless drove thither by force.

A Description of Fish.

THE Make of a *Pike* is long, the Head is flat, the Back square, the Snout very prominent, almost like the Bill of a Duck, and the lower Jaw longer than the upper; the Mouth is very wide, and the Tail forked. His Body covered with small thick Scales, moistened on the Edges with a Kind of *Mucus*, which may be easily wiped off; to this *Mucus* is owing that greenish Cast, which we behold in this Fish, and the younger he is, the greener he appears. If the Back and Sides are placed towards the Light, there appears something of a golden Hue. The Sides are spotted with yellow, and the Belly with white. On the Tail there are dusky Spots and reddish Lines, especially towards the Corners. The Eyes are of a gold Colour, and seem to be sunk a little into the Head; and therefore the most commodious Way of holding him is, by putting the Fore-finger into one Eye, and the Thumb into the other. The Head and Gills are spotted with Variety of small Holes.

THE great Lord *Bacon*, in his History of Life and Death, observes the *Pike* to be the longest lived of any of the fresh Water Fish, and yet he computes his Age not to be usually above Forty Years; others think it not to be above Ten Years. It is observed, that the very old and great *Pike* have in them more of Grandeur than Goodness; the smaller, especially the middle sized, being esteemed the best Meat, and the thicker, the firmer is the Flesh; the lean and slender, though longer, is commonly in a decaying Condition, by some Accident, Wound or Hurt.

A RIVER

A RIVER *Pike* grows fast till he arrives at twenty-four, or near thirty Inches in length; then he stands a little more at stay, and spreads himself in thickness; afterwards he will be much longer growing to his full Bigness, which is about forty-five Inches from thirty Inches, than he was increasing to the said length of thirty Inches. Not but in the main a *Pike* that weighs more than twelve Pounds have generally a Sort of Rankness, as those that are under three Pounds are flabby and insipid; and the Male *Pike* is preferable to the Female.

THEY are in Season all the Year except in Spawning-time, and about six Weeks after it, which is in *April* or *May*, or sometimes sooner, if the Spring be forward; they retire into Brooks and Ditches, as is supposed, that other Fish may not devour their Spawn, and are prodigious Breeders, yet they ought not to be taken till *August* or *September*. *Baltner* reckoned no less than a hundred and forty-eight thousand Eggs of Spawn in one Row.

February, *March*, *April* and *May*, therefore, are the worst Months, but especially *March* and *April*, for in part of the other Months, at least, they may be in pretty good Order, especially the Male, as the Female is out of Season a great Part of the Summer. The *Pike's* Flesh is whiter, finer, and every Way more excellent than that of a *Carp*.

THE Hearts and Galls of this Fish are reported by *Gosner* to be very medicinal. He says, they stop Blood, abate Fevers, cure Agues, if taken upon the approaching of a Fit; the Dose is seven or eight Drops, in a

A Description of Fish.

Liquor prepared on purpose for that End ; they also oppose and expel the Infection of the Plague, and are many Ways useful for the Good of Mankind : But he also observes, that the biting of a *Pike* is venomous and hard to be cured. His Spawn provokes Stool, and is used for that Purpose by the Country People ; and there is a small Stone in a *Pike's* Head that is looked upon to be good for helping Women's Labour, furthering their *Terms*, provoking Urine, purifying the Blood, expelling the Stone out of the Kidneys and Bladder, and for the Falling-sickness ; you may prescribe from 25 Grains to a Dram of them.

THE *Pike* being a Fish of Prey, breeds but once a Year, whereas other Fish that are liable to be destroyed, are observed to breed much oftener. Thus there are tame *Pigeons* who sit almost every Month, whilst the *Hawk*, a Bird of Prey, breeds but once in twelve Months. In this the Wisdom of Providence is very conspicuous, for its Care in the Preservation of every Species of Creatures *.

PIKE or *Pickerel*, by the Statute of 1 *Eliz.* Cap. xvii. are not to be taken under sixteen Inches long, on forfeiture of 20s. the Fish, with the Net or Engine they are taken with.

* You ought to chuse the *Pike* that is fat, well fed, whose Flesh is white, firm and short, that has been caught in Rivers, which is better than those in Ponds and muddy Places.

The P E A R C H.

THE *Pearch*, which in *Cumberland* is *Pearch*, called the *Barse*, is generally, when ^{or *Barse*.} full grown, about twelve or fourteen Inches long; sometimes, though but seldom, they attain to fifteen or sixteen.

THIS Fish is Hog-backed, and rather broad than otherwise. The Colour inclines a little to a dusky yellow, with five or six blackish Places like Girdles, proceeding from the Back towards the Belly. The Tail is forked; the Scales are small, thick, hard, rough, drying much sooner than those of any other River Fish. The *Iris* of the Eye is of a yellow or gold Colour; the Mouth wide, and the Jaws very rough with small Teeth; on some Parts of the principal Back Fins there are black Spots, but the whole Fin next the Tail is yellow, and the Tail itself is reddish; the Belly Fins have sometimes, but not always, a Mixture of red and white; the Gills, as in almost all River Fish, are Quadruple.

THE *Pearch* is so bold, that he will seize one of his own Kind, even more readily than the *Pike*, that Wolf of the fresh Waters. The Flesh is firm, and of an agreeable taste, of easy Digestion, and very wholesome; the Physicians allow him to be eaten by Persons in Fevers, and by Women in Childbed; but some say it is not quite so good in *March* and *April*, at which Time it Spawns; others say it does not Spawn till *June* or the Beginning of *July*, so consequently cannot be so delicious. The *Germans* say proverbially, *More whole-*

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some than a Pearch of the Rhine; and is much esteemed in *Italy*, especially when small. They have several small Stones in their Brain, which, in foreign Countries, are sold by the Apothecaries, who hold them to be very medicinal against the Stone in the Reins, and are of an opening Nature, dry up sharp Humours, and are outwardly applied for Ulcers in the Gums: And yet many affirm the *Sea-Perch*, which is known by having but one Fin on his Back, to be a much better Fish: He is of a red, brown or blackish Colour, and smaller than the *River-Pearch*, and is to be found near the Rocks, where it preys on smaller Fish: And some think, that the Male of the *River-Pearch* is to be distinguished from the Female, by the Fins being of a deeper red.

THE *River-Pearch* spawns in *March* and *April*, at which Time he is not so delicious, and he is to be distinguished by the great and small *Pearch*; but both are excellent Victuals. You are to chuse those that are fat, well fed, middle aged, tender, yet firm and well tasted; and they should be such as are caught in clear fine Rivers.

*The C A R P.**Carp.*

THE Colour of the *Carp*, especially when full grown, is yellowish, the Scales are large, the Head short, and like that of *Tench*; the Mouth is of a middle Size; the Lips fat, fleshy and yellow. It is without Teeth, but there is a triangular Bone in the Palate, and
two

two other Bones in the Throat, which serve for the same Purpose on the upper Lip; near the Corner of the Mouth, are two yellow Appendages, which may be called *Mustachoes*, from their Situation. The Fins are large, the Tail is broad, a little forked, and of a reddish Black. It has no Tongue, but in the room thereof, Nature hath provided a fleshy Palate, which being taken out, looks like one, which some say positively is one.

THEY Spawn several times in a Year, some say six Times, but the principal Times are in *May* and *August* *, in which Months they are lean and insipid, and consequently out of Season. The Females drop their Spawn as they swim along, and are generally followed by thirteen or fourteen Males, who impregnate it as it falls, yet a great deal of it perishes. They are in highest Esteem in *April*.

IT grows, according to *Rondeletius*, sometimes to the Length of a Yard and a half, and a proportionable thickness, and *Willoughby* affirms the largest weigh to be about twenty Pounds: And some have been taken in the *Thames*, particularly one near *Hampton-Court*, that weighed thirteen Pound; and they breed more naturally in Ponds than in running Waters, not but the River *Carp* is esteemed much better than the Pond *Carp*.

ONE thing is observable in this Fish, and that is, that he lives the longest out of the Water of any other Fish; and Mr. *Derham*

* Another Author says, he is best in *March*, *May* and *June*.

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assures us, that in *Holland* they hang them up in a Cellar or other cool Place, in a small Net full of wet Moss, with only their Heads out, and feed them with white Bread soaked in Milk for many Days, and their Decay is as mysterious, for when sixty or more large *Carps* have been put into a Pond, where it was impossible they could be stole, at emptying of the same three or four Years afterwards, there has been never a young *Carp* remaining, but this must be owing, in all Appearance, to their being destroyed by Frogs.

THE *Carp* was brought into *England* about one hundred sixty Years ago, by one Mr. *Leonard Mascall*, a Gentleman of *Plumsted* in *Sussex*, where he first brought them up.

PHYSICIANS make the Galls and the Stones in the Head of the *Carp* to be very medicinal, in provoking Urine, diminishing the Stones in the Kidneys and Bladder; they stop Looseness, and waste sharp and acid Humours. The Gall clears the Eye-sight; and in *Italy* great Profit is made of the *Spawn* of this Fish, by selling it to the *Jews*, who make it into red Cavear, they not being by their Law admitted to eat the Cavear made of *Sturgeon*, that being a Fish which wants *Scales*, and by them reputed to be unclean.

THE Male *Carp* is better than the Female, the yellow better than the white; and being but a bony Fish, is thought by many to owe more of his Reputation to the elegant Manner of dressing him, than to his own intrinsic Worth; and, contrary to the *Pike*, they are the better for Age and Bigness; and their Tongues or Palates are excellent Meat, which
is

is the Reason why the Head is esteemed the best Part of it. So chuse those *Carps* which are large, fat, well fed, and not too young, and that have been caught in Rivers, rather than Ponds.

The T E N C H.

THE *Tench* is a short thick roundish Fish, *Tench*, and is about three times as long as broad; his Snout is short and blunt, his Mouth round, his Tail broad, but not forked, his Back is dark, his Sides green mixed with a shining yellow, the Colour of the Gills is of a beautiful yellow; the Tail as well as the Fins of the Belly and Back, are blackish; the Scales are small, thin, and covered with a viscid *Mucus*, which makes him very slippery; but its supposed to have an healing Quality, and to cure the Wounds of other Fish, especially the Pike, who being either hurt or sick, is said to be cured by only touching him, from whence he is said to be his Physician. His Skin is thick, his Eyes are small, round, and a little prominent; the *Iris* red; he is a Still-water-fish, and delights in Ponds more than Rivers; one *Tench* taken in a River is worth six taken in a Pond.

IN this Fish the Sex is easily distinguished; for the Fins on the Belly are much larger in the Male than in the Female, but the River *Tench* is greatly preferable to the Pond, not that its Flesh is in any great Esteem for its salutary Properties; for Physicians, with one Voice, forbid it to sick Persons, and yet the Taste of it is agreeable enough; but it is said
to

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to breed noxious Humours, and not to be very easy of Digestion. Mr. *Walton* says, that there are two little Pearls or Stones in every *Tench's* Head, which foreign Physicians make great use of to qualify Acids, stop Looseness, fortify the Stomach, provoke Urine, and also to drive the Stone out of the Kidneys and Bladder.

THEIR Time of Spawning is in *June*, or the Beginning of *July*, and they are in Season from the Beginning of *September* to the End of *May*, and will live a long Time out of Water.

THEY are generally met with in *England* about five or six Pound weight, yet in some Countries they grow to twenty. You ought to chuse that *Tench* which is fat, tender, well fed; and its Taste is also more or less agreeable, as it has lived more or less in clear and running Waters.

*The BARBEL.**Barbel.*

THE *Barbel* is a beautiful well-shaped Fish, with small Scales placed after a most exact and curious Manner. The Back is of an Olive Colour, the Belly Silver. It is speckled on the Back and Sides with small black Spots; his Make is long and roundish, and his Snout sharp; his Mouth is not large, but the upper Jaw is more prominent than the lower. He has four Barbs or Wattles, from whence he derives his Name, two near the Corners of his Mouth, and two higher, near the End of his Snout. The Eyes are small, looking downwards, with golden *Iris's* spotted

ted with brown. In the Summer their Bellies are red.

THE Flesh is soft and flabby, and in no great Esteem; the Spawn is very unwholesome, especially in the Month of *May*, purging both upwards and downwards, is surfeiting and dangerous, and those that eat thereof will frequently break out in Blotches and red Spots, and will loath their Meat, lose their Appetites, and be extremely disordered; and notwithstanding all this, yet it is sometimes taken by the Country People for a Purge or Vomit; his Liver is likewise unwholesome. The Male however is reputed much better than the Female, and their principal Season is *September*. The small are preferred to the large ones, as more easy of Digestion. The Liver of this Fish is much esteemed for its Taste, and the Head next.

WALTON says, they Spawn in *April*, but later Writers affirm, that it is in *August*. They lay their Spawn in the Middle of the Stream, and grow in Season again in a Month or five Weeks time.

THEIR Size is from a Foot to a Foot and half long; the Sort which are usually met with, weigh about seven or eight Pounds, is bred in most Rivers, especially in the *Thames*; and as he cannot well endure Cold, retiring at the Approach of Winter from the swift Streams and shallow Waters to the more quiet and deep Parts of the River, where he spawns; he therefore in the Winter-time is but sick and languid, but in the Summer clean and sound. And whoever shall kill any *Barbel* under twelve Inches long, forfeits by the

the Statute 1 *Eliz.* Cap. xvii. the Sum of 20 s.
the Engine and Fish.

The B R E A M.

*Bream,
or Broad
Carp.*

THE *Bream*, or by some the *Broad Carp*, is a large, broad, flat Fish, with a small Head and a sharp Snout. He has a sharp Hogback, and the lateral Lines run from the Gills towards the Belly, making an Arch, contrary to what appears in most other Fishes. The Back is of a bluish Black; the Sides and the Belly white, except the Fish is full grown and fat, for then his Sides are of a gold Colour, and the Belly reddish. The Scales are large, the Mouth small and void of Teeth, but instead thereof, there is a triangular Bone in the Palate; this last is soft and fleshy, as in the *Carp*. He has two Nostrils; and the *Iris* of the Eye is of a Silver Colour, and the Pupil is small: The *Bream* is much like unto the *Carp*, in divers Respects, as to Age, Place of Abode, Food, and his Effects. The Flesh of the *Bream*, is of no great Esteem, and yet makes no bad Dish, if well cooked. Those who would be thought Criticks in good Eating, prefer the Tail of a *Pike*; the Head of a *Carp*; the Back of a *Tench*, and the middle Part of a *Bream*; and some say, his Head is the next good Part of him: He is very scarce in Rivers, within twenty Miles of *London*.

THE *French* esteem this Fish highly, and have this Proverb, concerning him, That, *he who bath Breams in his Pond, is able to bid his Friends welcome.*

THEY

THEY spawn in *May*, and are in the highest Season, in *March* and *April*; and are by some thought to eat as well in *September*, as any Time. About the Time of Spawning, the Male is marked with white Spots about the Head, is observed to have two large Melts, and the Female, two large Bags of Spawn. They sometimes weigh with us, about ten or twelve Pounds.

SOME say, that *Breams* and *Roaches* will mix their Eggs, and melt together; whence there is, in many Places, a Bastard Breed of *Breams*, that never come to be either large or good, but very numerous: As to the *Sea-Bream*, I shall mention him hereafter.

THERE is another Sort pretty like a *Carp*, The *Dare*. which we call a *Dare*; it differs from the other, in that it is whiter and flatter. It is also better tasted, and produces the same Effects; it is not altogether so common as a *Carp*.

The SEA-BREAM.

THE *Sea-Bream* is a flat scaly Fish, about Sea- twenty-six Inches long, and ten broad; Bream. the Tail is very small, and the Fin of it, long and forked; the Back is black, the Sides are of a lighter Colour, and the Belly is white.

THE Flesh cuts red, and is of a very delicious Taste, far surpassing either the River or Pond-*Bream*; insomuch, that it seems allied to them in Nothing else, but the Name.

IT is often caught in Rock-Fishing; and
I is

is to be met with, on any Part of the *British Coast*.

The CHUB, or CHEVIN.

*Chub, or
Chevin.*

THE *Chub* is of a longer Make than a *Carp*, and has a larger and flatter Head than a *Dare*; the Back is of an obscure green, like an unripe Olive; the Sides and Belly are of a Silver Colour, but in a well-fed, full-grown *Chub*, they incline to that of Gold, speckled with black; the Temples are yellowish, and the Head is of a very dark Colour. The Scales are as large as those of *Carp*, the Mouth is void of Teeth, and not large; the lower Jaw is shorter than the upper; the Palate is soft, and furnished with a triangular Bone, the Nostrils are large, the Eyes middling, and the *Iris* seems to partake of the Colour, both of Gold and Silver, the Tail is forked, and the lateral Lines run parallel to the Bottom of the Belly.

THEY spawn in * *May*, in sandy or gravelly Places, and in the very Midst of the Stream. They are most in Season in the Spring, while they are full of Spawn. *Walton* and his Transcribers, say, he spawns in *March*, and that they are accounted best in Winter, it being observed, that the forked Bones are then lost, or turned into a Kind of Gristle, especially if he be baked; also that the Spawn of this Fish is excellent Meat, and the Head of a large *Chevin*, the Throat being well washed,

* Others say, they spawn in *March*, as that he is in Season, from the Middle of *May*, unto *Michaelmas*: Also that his Spawn is excellent.

is the best Part of him : Likewise, that there is as great a Difference between a *Chub* newly taken and dressed, and one of a Day's Keeping, after he is dead, as between Cherries newly gathered from a Tree, and others that have been bruised, and lain a Day or two in Water.

THEY are sometimes to be caught of about eight or nine Pound's Weight, and the Flesh in General, of little Esteem; the Flesh being but soft and insipid : The *Chub* recovers Strength and Growth in Season, in a Month after Spawning.

The E E L.

THE *Eel* is much in the Shape of a Serpent or Snake, both in Make and Motion, and hath a long smooth Body, moistened all over, with a viscous Liquor, which renders it very slippery ; it has no Scales, but is covered with a Skin, which is easily taken off ; the Back is of a dusky Colour, the Sides of a whitish blue, and the Belly somewhat lighter. Those that inhabit clear, running Water, are of the brightest shining Colour, and are usually called *Silver Eels* : The Mouth is pretty wide, and full of Teeth ; the upper Jaw is a little more prominent than the Lower ; the Eyes are whitish, the Vent is nearer the Head than the Tail ; it has four small Gills, covered with the Skin.

THERE are four Sorts of *Eels* : The *Silver-Eel* ; the *Greenish*, or *Greg-Eel* ; the *Red-finned Eel*, and the *Blackish-Eel*, the last has a broader, flatter and larger Head than the rest, and

is counted the worst: But whether these Distinctions are Essential or Accidental, will admit of a Doubt. In the *Thames*, the Fishermen give them particular Names, but the most usual are, the *Silver-Eel*, and the *Greig*: This last is thicker and shorter than the other Sort, and of a darker Colour.

NEAR *Gloucester* and *Tewksbury*, there are a Sort of diminutive *Eels*, which they call *Elvers*; and are thought to be young *Congers*: These are taken in such Quantities, that they make a Sort of Cakes of them, which eat prettily enough, when fried.

THE *Eel* was in the highest Esteem among the *Romans*, who thought her the *Paragon* of their Feasts, and is universally allowed at this Day, to be a delicious Fish, being always in Season; but their best Time is in the Winter, and their worst in *May*. They have very sweet Flesh, fat, white, pleasant and nourishing; and are more wholesome roasted than boiled, because they are thereby, more divested of their Viscous Phlegm, than by the other Way.

It is said, that those *Eels* which are bred in Rivers that communicate with the Sea, never return to the fresh Waters when they have once tasted the Salt; which is the more probable, because powdered Beef is a most excellent Bait to catch an *Eel*. It is granted, that *Eels*, during the six cold Months in the Year, move not up nor down, either in Rivers or Pools, but get into the soft Earth or Mud; and there many of them get together, and bed themselves, and live without Feeding upon any Thing. The Fat of *Eel* is looked
upon

upon to be good to take away the Signs of the Small-Pox in the Face ; to cure the Piles, and to make the Hair to grow ; it is also put into the Ears, to help your Hearing. They make a Kind of *Mucilage*, of *Eel's* Skins, by steeping and boiling it in Water, which is applied to Swellings, in Order to the softning and dissolving of them. It is also good for *Hernias*.

How *Eels* are to be sold in Barrels, packed, imported, sold, &c. *Vide* Stat. 22 *Edw.* IV. Cap. ii. 11 *Hen.* VII. Cap. xxiii. 5 *Eliz.* Cap. v. 32 *Car.* II. Cap. ii. Sect. 7. 10 and 11 *Wil.* III. Cap. xxiv.

The LAMPREY, or LAMPERN.

THE *Lampern* is a River Fish, about five or six Inches long, the Back of a greyish Black, the Belly of a lively Silver Colour, the Mouth is round, and furnished with six or seven Teeth ; on the Top of the Head there is a Hole, as in the *Cetaceous* Kind : For as the Mouth, when the *Lamprey* adheres to a Rock, or Stone, is entirely shut, there is a Necessity for a Hole to take in the Water, which is discharged again by the Gills, or the seven Holes placed on each Side, near the Head, the Eyes are of a palish yellow, the Belly rises and falls much in the same Manner, as in Animals that breath.

THE River *Lamprey*, contrary to the Manner of other Fish, procreate their Species with their Bellies joined together.

THE Flesh is of a soft glutinous Nature, and

is generally eaten potted; their Time of Spawning is in *April*.

*Blind
Lamprey.*

THERE is another Sort of this Fish, which is called the *Blind Lamprey*, which is small, round, like a large Dew-Worm, or Lob-Worm. The Mouth is round, and always open, but it has neither Teeth, nor Tongue. It has a Hole on his Head, and seven on each Side, instead of Gills, as in the other Species.

Of the LAMPREY-EEL.

*Lamprey-
Eel.*

THIS is of the same Shape, but of a larger Size than the *Lamprey*, for it is sometimes taken in the *Severn*, three Feet long. The Skin is of a blackish Colour, and full of palish Angular Spots; it is tough, but yet not taken off, when dressed, as in *Eels*.

THEY live chiefly in the Sea, which they leave the Beginning of Spring, and come into the Rivers to spawn, where they are found in great Plenty: After which, they return with their Young, to their former Place again and at a certain Time prefixed. Their highest Season is in *March*, when they first enter the Rivers, and are full of Spawn, which they deposite in *April*, in Holes they make in gravelly Bottoms. In short, they resemble a *Lamprey* in all Things, and are more easy of Digestion than an *Eel*, and best to be eaten in the Spring, when they are tender and delicious, whereas at other Times they are hard, tough, and have but little Taste.

The

The CONGER, or SEA-EEL.

THE *Conger* is a very long Fish, being *Conger, or*
sometimes two Yards, or two Yards and *Sea-Eel.*
a Half long, and of the Thickness of a Man's
Thigh. It is made much like an Eel, but is
larger, of a lighter Colour, has bigger Eyes,
of a Silver Hue; and has, at the very End
of his Snout two small Horns or Tubes.

THE Flesh is very white and sweet, but
not easy of Digestion. It was greatly esteem-
ed by the Antients, and does not want its Ad-
vocates among the Moderns, especially, when
it is fried.

THE young Fry of this Fish, are called
Elvers, in *Gloucestershire*, where they are taken
in great Plenty, out of the River *Severn*, in the
Night-time; and are made in Cakes, and sold
in that Form.

IF *Congers* taken by Foreigners, are imported,
they are seizable, 18 *Car. II. Cap. 2.* See
also Statute 1 *Geo. I. Cap. 18*, and 9 *Geo. II.*
Cap. 33; about the Importation and Sale
hereof.

The EEL-POUT.

THE *Eel-Pout* has a smooth, soft, slip- *Eel Pout.*
pery Body, like an Eel, especially the
Belly. It has either no Scales, or they
are exceeding small; its Colour is blackish,
which is easily wiped off; and then there ap-
pears underneath, a Mixture of yellow, white
and black. They are chiefly to be met with,
in the *Trent*; they spawn in *December*, their
usual

A Description of Fish.

usual Length is about fourteen or fifteen Inches; and commonly weigh, from two or three Pounds to seven or eight. Their Places of Resort, are the same as the Eel, if within the Reach of the Tide. His Flesh is good, and sweet, and greatly esteemed, except the Roe, which is very unhealthy; and the Cook should take great Care to put it away, when they gut the Fish, and not dress it with the rest; for otherwise, it will cause great Pains in the Stomack, and work violently upwards and downwards; it agrees in Summer-time, with any Age or Constitution. You are to chuse an *Eel-pout*, that is large, fat, old enough, tender, and delicious, and that hath been catched in clear and running Waters; it cannot bear the Cold, and therefore, is not so fat, nor pleasing to the Taste in Winter, as in Summer; and is preferable to an Eel.

*The R O A C H.**Roach.*

THE *Roach* or *Rocket*, is a less Fish than a *Bream*, and about one Third as broad as it is long. The Back is of a dusky Colour and sometimes bluish, but the Belly pale. The *Iris* of the Eyes, as well as the Tail and Fins, are red, the lateral Lines run parallel to the Belly, and the Tail is forked; about the Gills, it is of a Gold Colour; the Mouth is round, but void of Teeth, it being a Leather-mouthed Fish. He is but a coarse bony Fish, of no great Reputation for his Taste, and his Spawn is accounted much better than any other Part of him, the largest seldom exceeds twelve Inches.

His

HIS Spawning-time, is the Middle of *May* or in the Beginning of *June*, when he is scabby and unwholesome ; but, both he and the *Dace* recover Strength, and grow in Season in about three Week's Time. They breed both in Rivers and Ponds, and though the Pond-*Roach* are largest ; yet those caught in Rivers, are the best Fish.

THE *Roach* is easy of Digestion, produces good Juice ; it is likewise nourishing, restorative, recovers decayed Strength, promotes Seed, and is looked upon to be good to stop a Looseness : It agrees, especially in Winter-time, with any Age and Constitution. You ought to chuse *Roaches* that are tender, fresh, plump, and well tasted.

The B A R B O T T.

IS a small River Fish, that lives upon Mud, *Barbott.* and Slime, yields pretty good Nourishment, and easy enough of Digestion ; yet is a little too soft and viscous : The Roe of it, as well as the *Eel-Pout*, is not to be eaten, for it will work with you upwards and downwards. Its Liver is well tasted, and very large in Proportion to the Bigness of the Part of his Body. Some Authors assure us, that there is no other but this Part of this Fish that is good to be eaten ; besides it is alledged by the nice Palates, to taste of the Ordure with which it is fed. In the Choice of this Fish, take that which is well fed, tender, delicious, and well tasted.

The RUD, or FINSCALE.

*Rud, or
Finscale.*

THE *Rud*, or broad *Roach*, is broader than a *Carp*, and thicker than a *Bream*. This Fish seems to partake not only of the *Carp*, but of the *Bream* and *Roach*, but preferable to either. Its Colour is of a dusky Yellow, and its Scales are as large as those of a *Carp*, the Tail is of a light, and the Belly-Fins of a dark Red; the Nostrills are double; on both Sides, the *Iris* of the Eyes is yellow, speckled with black; the Teeth and Palate, are like those of a *Carp*, and its usual Size is from twelve to sixteen Inches long.

It is a Fish in great Esteem, is always in Season, and consequently fit to eat.

THE Time of Spawning is in *April*, and then it is at the worst, the Signs of which are white Spots about the Head of the Males. At this Time, they likewise feel more rough, and swim in Shoals, casting their Spawn among the Weeds, that grow in the Water. The greatest Weight is about two Pounds, and are chiefly found in *Yorkshire*, *Norfolk*, and *Oxfordshire*.

The DACE, or DARE.

*Dace, or
Dare.*

THE *Dare* is not unlike a *Chub*, but is proportionably less; his Body more white and flatter; and his Tail more forked. The *Iris* of his Eyes is not so yellow, and the Tail and Back-Fins not so black, but they are spotted with that Colour; the rest of the Fins
are

are not so red. He is not so broad as a *Roach*, and is a Leather-mouthed Fish.

HE breeds almost in all Rivers, is a brisk Fish, swims swiftly like a Dart, from whence he takes his Name. He seldom exceeds ten Inches in Length.

THE Flesh of a *Dare* is sweet, soft, and of good Nourishment, but in no great Esteem: Not, but if they are scorched and broiled, when first taken, they eat sweeter, and are more palatable than a fresh Herring.

THEY spawn the latter End of *February* and *March*, but generally in *March*; and are fit to eat in *April* and *May*, but their highest Season is in *September*: Some also affirm, that they spawn twice a Year, without mentioning in which Month they spawn the second Time. Certain it is, however, that small and middle-sized *Dace*, have been taken at the latter End of *October*, and Beginning of *November*, all full of Melts and Roes; and those Fish have usually a finer Flavour, than any taken in the Summer, and the *Dace* grows in Season in about a Fortnight or three Weeks Time after Spawning.

The

*The GUDGEON.**Gudgeon.*

THE *Gudgeon* is generally five or six Inches long, of a smooth Body, with very small Scales; the Back of it is dark, but the Belly pale; there are about nine or ten black Spots, placed along the lateral Lines, from the Head to the Tail; besides, there are some small ones here and there, in other Parts of the Body, without any Regularity. The *Iris* of the Eye is white; the Mouth without Teeth, but on the Palate, is a triangular Bone, which serves in their Stead, and is of a fine Shape.

HIS Flesh is very well tasted, of easy Digestion, produces Urine, and is very nourishing, insomuch, that some think it no Ways inferior to the *Smelt*, the whiter he is the better, and when in Perfection, well deserves the Name of the *River-Smelt*; and those bred in clear running Water, are the best.

HE spawns twice a Year; the first Time, about the latter End of *March*, and in *April*, as the Weather proves warmer in the Spring, and the second Time in *November*; some say oftner, and are in Season, most Part of the Year. There is a Fish, called a *Sea-Gudgeon*, which, though it is of a good Taste, and Juice enough, yet is little used.

*The POPE, or RUFF.**Pope, or Ruff.*

THE *Pope*, by many called a *Ruff*, from the Roughness of his Body; is not known to be in some Rivers. He is much like a *Pearch* in his Shape, and taken to be better, being exceeding

exceeding well tasted, when largest, it seldom exceeds six Inches. He is all over rough, and hath sharp and prickly Fins, which he erects, when angry ; his Back of a brown dusky Colour, but his Sides of a pale Yellow : The upper Part of his Eyes are brown, the Lower yellow and the Pupil black ; the Tail is forked.

THE Time of *Spawning* is in *April*; though he is small, yet he is very good and sweet Eating.

The BLEAK.

THE *Bleak*, or fresh Water *Sprat*, is a *Bleak*. very small, fat, pleasant Fish, scarcely ever attaining to be six Inches long ; his Body is covered with thin Silver Scales, which easily come off ; he is of a more slender and flatter Make than a *Chub*, and his Head is proportionably less ; he has large Eyes, and the lower Part of the *Iris* is spotted with red.

THEY are to be met with in great Plenty, in all our Rivers, and are reckoned to be chiefly in Season in *Autumn* ; the Flesh is sweet, nourishing and pleasant, but little sought after, because of the Diminutive Size. The Sea *Bleak* is preferred to the River, because the latter are said to be sometimes mad in Summer, occasioned by a flat-jointed long Worm, which breeds in their Heads (some say Stomacks). Mr. *Walton*, upon a Presumption that our *Bleaks* and *Anchovies* are the same Fish, says, that this Fish would not be so much neglected, had we the Skill the *Italians* have, of turning them into *Anchovies*.

The MINNOW or PENK.

The Min-
now or
Penk.

THE *Minnow* is twice as small as a *Gudgeon*, its greatest Length about three Inches ; the Body is oblong and smooth, the Back of a dark Olive ; the Scales are so exceeding small, that some have affirmed they have none ; the Eyes are moderate large ; the Tail forked. They cast their Spawn in *April* in sandy and gravelly Fords. He is usually caught for a Bait for Perch, Pike, &c. and begins to make his Appearance in *March*, and continues visible till *Michaelmas*, when he retires to the Mud, Weeds, and woody Places for Security, as does the *Loach* and *Bullhead*, and is in Season from *March* to *Michaelmas*, except immediately after Spawning time. It is usually full of Spawn, breeds often, and is not inferior to any Fish for its Excellency of Taste.

The LOACH.

The Loach.

THE *Loach* resembles a *Gudgeon* in Colour ; its Body is smooth, soft and slippery, with no discernable Scales. The Head, Back, Fins and Tail, are spotted with Black, in other Parts it is of a dirty Yellow, like Freckles. It has Barbs or Wattles, like the *Barbel*. It is a delicate Fish, though but very small, and it is very wholesome eating.

Its usual Size is about four Inches ; it was formerly accounted a great Delicacy, and now is commonly swallowed alive, as being a great Restorative. They begin to spawn in
April

April among the Weeds ; but as they do not all spawn at the same time, they are always in Season.

The BULL-HEAD or MILLER'S THUMB.

THE *Bull-Head* is generally about four or five Inches long, has a large de-
formed Head, Eyes small and so placed as to look upward, Mouth large, Back yellow, with three or four Strokes of Black, and the Body without Scales.

The Bull-Head, or Miller's Thumb.

THEY are a sweet Fish and agreeable to the Taste. They Spawn in *March*, and are in best Season when they are full of Spawn, as most other Fishes are. They begin to Spawn about *April*; and its Vent is so full of Spawn, that they are swelled almost into the Form of a Dug.

The STICKLEBACK or SHARPLING.

THE *Stickleback* is flat bodied, sharp nosed, and about two Inches and a quarter long; has three sharp Prickles on his Back, and two on his Belly, from whence he derives his Name. His Belly is always full of Spawn, is good for little but to make Sport in Summer for Boys and Women Anglers, and to feed Fish of Prey, as the *Pike*, &c. But it is providential, that both this Fish, as well as the *Minnow*, *Loach*, and *Bull-head*, breed both often and numerous, and soon arrive to full

The Stickleback or Sharp-ling.

full Growth and Perfection, as they are a Prey as well as Bait to other Fish.

THUS have I given a Description of the several Sorts of Fish which inhabit the River of *Thames* westwards, (or above) *London* Bridge; I shall, in the next Place mention, first, some of that Species of Fish, which, though bred in the Sea, and properly Inhabitants of the Salt Waters, are frequently, nay, some of them constantly, taken in the said River, as well above as below the said Bridge, such as the *Flounder*, *Smelt*, *Shad*, &c. and, Secondly, the other Sorts of Salt Water Fish, which are either caught in the said River, within the Jurisdiction of the Lord Mayor of *London*, or brought to be sold at *Billingsgate* Market.

The FLOUNDER.

The *Floun-*
der.

THE *Flounder*, or *Fluke*, is in shape much like a *Plaice*, only the Body is somewhat longer, and when it is full grown it is thicker; the Colour of a dirty Olive; sometimes they are beautifully spotted; but you rarely meet with these, except far up the River. The Scales are exceeding small, and adhere so closely to the Skin, that there is no perceivable Roughness on it; the Eyes are of the Right-side, and are of the same Colour as the Body, only a little more grey, and the Mouth is small.

THE *Flounder* is both a River and Sea-fish; but the former are not so black, and are more soft than the latter; but this Difference seems

seems to arise only from the Nature of their Food. The Flesh is white, soft, innocent and nourishing, and is always best when most firm; nay, it is so innocent and nutritive, that Physicians order them to be given to sick Persons when their Stomachs cannot digest any other Food: On such Occasions, those that are taken in the fresh Water are the best. Their Taste is much like that of a *Plaice*, from which it differs but little in any Respect. They allay the sharp Humours of the Breast, and open the Body. The best *Plaice* has the blackest Spots on their Backs, and the best *Flounders* the reddest; and as the latter are by some thought to have no Scales, he is not eaten by the *Jews*; and when you chuse a *Flounder*, you may know the freshest and best by their being stiff, their Eyes not sunk, or looking dull, and then they are white, tender, fresh, and agreeable to the Taste.

THEY are in Season all the Year except in *June* and *July*, which is their Time of Spawning, and then they are sick, flabby, and unwholesome, and infested with Worms which breed in their Backs.

If any Person brings to shore, sells, or offers to sell, &c. any *Flounder*, not being seven Inches long from the Eyes to the Extent of the Tail, forfeits by the Statute 1 *Geo. I. Cap. xviii.* not only 20s. but the Fish.

The S M E L T.

THE *Smelt* is a Fish for shape not much The *Smelt*. unlike a *Trout*, only longer in Proportion to its bigness. Its common Size is about

A Description of Fish.

bout six Inches, sometimes they are to be met with nine Inches long. The Back is of a dusky Colour, but the Belly and Sides shine like Silver; the Body is covered with Scales, which fall off with the least Touch; the Skull is so transparent, that the Lobes of the Brain may be distinctly seen through it; the Eyes are of a silver Colour.

THE Flesh is soft and tender, and of a delicate Taste, yields pretty good Nourishment, and is easy of Digestion. It is looked upon to be Opening, and good for the Stone and Gravel: It is so highly esteemed, that they are oftentimes sold at an extravagant Price. All Writers on this Fish affirm, that it has the Smell of a Violet; but the vulgar Opinion would have it to be that of a Cucumber.

IT is a Fish of Passage, and visits the *Thames*, and other great Rivers, twice a Year, that is, in *March* and *August*: In the first of these Months they generally advance up the River as high as *Richmond*, but in the last, they make a stand about *Blackwall* or *Greenwich*.

You are to chuse a *Smelt* that is fair, shining, of a Pearl Colour, soft, tender, delicious, juicy, and smelling like a Violet.

The SHAD.

The *Shad*. **T**HE *Shad* is in Shape much like a *Herring*, but a little broader; it grows to the Length of a Foot and half, and is of a bluish Black on the Back, and the Belly and Sides of a silver

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a Silver Colour, and the Eyes and Mouth are large.

THEY usually enter the River *Thames* in *February* or *March*, when they are fat, and full of Spawn; where they stay till *June* or *July*; they are lean, dry and ill tasted, when they come first out of the Sea; but after they have been some little Time in fresh Water, they grow fat, plump and savoury.

THEY find a Pearl in the Head of this Fish, which is looked upon to be good for curing of Quartan Agues; expelling Stones in the Kidneys and Bladder, working by Urine, and consuming acid Humours. It is also pretended, that the Stomach of a *Shad* dried and reduced into a Powder, if taken inwardly, fortifies the Stomach, but *Shads* not fresh have a Sharpness that doth a little incommode the Gums, and causes Thirst.

YOU are to chuse those that are fresh, plump, tender, well tasted, and have been caught in fresh Water, which are much preferable to those caught in the salt Water.

THE Flesh is well enough tasted, but it is so full of small Bones; that it is little valued for that Reason. He also nourishes and causes Sleepiness.

AND as the *Sturgeon* is oftentimes caught in this River about the Time that *Shads* come therein, I shall be so free with him, though a Royal Fish, as to place and describe him next.

The STURGEON.

The Stur-
geon.

THE *Sturgeon* is a long and pentagenous Fish, that is, it has five Rows of Scales, which divide the Body into as many Angles. The Belly is plain and flat; the upper Row of Scales, which is in the Middle of the Back, are larger, and rise higher than the rest. The Number of these is not determinate, being in some eleven, in others twelve or thirteen; this Row reaches to the Back-Fin, and there terminates. The Head is of a moderate Size, and rough, with very small Prickles, as is the rest of the Body between the Rows of Scales. The Eyes are very small in proportion to the Bulk of this Fish, and of a Silver Colour. The Snout is long, broad and slender, ending in a Point. In the Middle of the lower Part of the *Snout*, which is extended behind the Mouth, there are four Barbs or Wattles placed in a Right Line, which crosses the Snout transversely. The Mouth is small, void of Teeth, and placed over-against the Eyes; it is a kind of a small Pipe, which he can thrust out and draw in at Pleasure. He has no Jaws; whence it is plain he takes no Nourishment but by sucking; the Tail is forked. The Colour of this Fish is of a dusky Olive, or dark Grey on the Back, but on the Belly of a Silver Colour, and the Middle Part of the Scales is White *.

THEY

* The greatest *Sturgeon* Fishery in the World is in the Mouth of the *Volga*, in the *Caspian* Sea, where the *Muscovites* find Employment for a great Number of Men. The chief Object of this Fishery is the Roe or Spawn, which

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THEY are brought daily to the Markets of *Venice* and *Rome*, whence its evident they abound in the *Adriatick* and *Tuscan* Seas; but they are all small, as indeed they all are that keep constantly in the salt Waters. In the Rivers they increase to a monstrous Size, some having been taken from fourteen to eighteen Feet long.

OF the Spawn of this Fish there is made a Sort of Edible, which they call *Cavear* or *Kavia*, and is a considerable Merchandize among the *Turks*, *Greeks* and *Venetians*. It is likewise in high Esteem throughout *Muscovy*; and has lately been introduced on the *English* Table.

You are to chuse that *Sturgeon* which is young, well fed, as tender as may be, and caught in Rivers: They are very nourishing, and good and lasting Food. They open the Body of this Fish a little, and the Bones being reduced to Powder, and taken to the Quantity of a Dram, are looked upon to be Opening, good for Rheumatism and the Gravel.

The B A S S.

THE *Bass* is shaped pretty much like a *The Bass*, *Salmon*; the Colour on the Back is of a dark dirty Blue, on the Belly, Silver: When young, they have black Spots on the Back and Lateral Lines, which, as they increase in

which is a Commodity as much used in *Muscovy* as Butter in *Holland*: And there are *Sturgeons* that furnish Four-hundred Pounds thereof. It is only the lesser and younger *Sturgeon* that they Pickle for eating.

P 2

Bulk,

A Description of Fish.

Bulk, quite vanish: They sometimes grow to the Length of a Yard, and upwards; yet, according to some, are thought to be of a large Size, when they weigh fifteen Pounds. The Scales are of a middling Size, thick, and adhere very closely. The Eyes are large and of a Silver Colour, with dark cloudy Spots; a small Circle next the Pupil is yellow.

It is a very voracious Fish, and yet the Flesh is of a good Flavour, and very wholesome. They will live either in the Sea, Rivers or Ponds; but the Sea-Bass are the best, and next to them are those taken in the Mouth of large Rivers.

If any Person brings to Shore, or sells or exposes to sale any *Bass* under twelve Inches in Length, from the Eyes to the Extent of the Tail, forfeits by Statute 1 Geo. I. Cap. xviii. the Sum of 20s. and the Fish.

The MULLET.

The Mullet.
let.

THE *Mullet*, a Salt-water Fish, in shape much like a *Dare*, has a flat Head, and a sharp Snout, and large Scales not only on the Body, but on the Covers of the Gills and Part of the Head; the Back of a dirty Green, the Belly White, the Sides painted with alternate Streaks of white and black from Head to Tail, the Eyes of a Silver Colour, and the Tail forked.

THE Flesh is well tasted, delicate and much admired: During the Summer Season they come into the Rivers which lie contiguous with the Sea, as oft as the Tide flows and returns with it; they abound chiefly along

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along the Southern and South West Parts of *England* opposite to *France*.

WHEN he is largest his Size is about a Foot and a half long.

THE River *Ax*, in the County of *Devon*, about two Miles below the Town of *Axminster*, yields vast Quantities of them every Time the Tide flows.

HE is said to live upon Weeds and Mud ; however, it is certain he abstains from Fish.

IF any Person brings to Shore, or sells or offers to sale any *Mullet* under twelve Inches long, from the Eyes to the Extent of the Tail, forfeits by the Statute 1 *Geo. I. Cap. xviii.* the Sum of 20 s. and the Fish and Nets.

THE *Italians* make a Pickle with the Spawn, which they call *Botargoe*.

Botargoe.

The PLAICE.

THE *Plaice* is a Fish extremely flat ; sometimes we meet with them the Length of a Foot and seven Inches broad.

THE upper Part is of a dirty Olive, painted with round Spots of a Vermilion Dye ; the lower Part is white. This is a scaly Fish, but the Scales are so small, and are in a Manner concealed in hollow Cavities, in-
somuch that it requires no little trouble to separate them. The Eyes are prominent, very near together, and placed on the Right Side to the Left of the Mouth ; the Tail long and roundish at the End ; at the upper Edge of the Coverings of the Gills, are planted seven bony Tubercles.

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THIS Fish is every where to be met with.

THE Flesh is soft, sweet, pleasant and wholesome, and by some thought of equal Goodness with the *Sole*. It is nourishing enough, digests easily, produces good Juice, allays the sharp Humours of the Breast, and opens the Belly.

You are to chuse those that are fresh, tender, white, soft and agreeable to the Taste. The *Plaice* and *Flounder* are both of the same Kind, only the first is bigger than the latter.

If any Person brings to Shore, sells or exposes to sale, &c. any *Plaice*, not being eight Inches from the Eyes to the Extent of the Tail, forfeits by Statute 1 *Geo. I. Cap. xviii.* not only 20 s. but the Fish also.

The D A B.

The Dab.

THE *Dab* is a little thicker than a *Plaice*, but much about the same Size. He is a scaly Fish, and the Scales are large for one of this Kind; his Eyes are situated like the *Plaice*, his Mouth of a middle Size, and the Colour of his upper Part is of a dirty Olive, with a reddish Cast, and speckled with Spots of a dusky yellow.

It differs from a *Plaice*, in being thicker, in having larger Scales, in having no Tubercles near the Head, in wanting the Vermilion Spots, though some have Yellow ones.

THIS Fish is frequently met with in all Parts of the Sea that surround our Coast.

THE Flesh is firmer, and is thought to be better relished than that of a *Plaice*.

DABS

DABS are not to be taken or sold under the same Affize as the *Plaice*. Vide *Plaice*.

The SOLE.

THE *Sole* is a flat longish Fish, in shape *The Sole.*
much like the Soal of a Shoe, from whence it derives its Name. The upper Part is of a dark Ash-colour, and the lower White. The Scales are very small; the Corners of the Mouth are rough, with a Sort of small Brittles or Hairs. The Body is surrounded with short Fins, which on the upper Edge begin near the Eyes, and are continued to the Tail; on the lower Edge it proceeds from the Tail to the Vent, which is placed near the Head. The Eyes are situated in the Left Side of the Head, and are small, round and covered with a loose Skin; the Pupils are small and of a shining Green; the Tail round.

THE Flesh is more firm and solid than that of a *Plaice*; it is nourishing and easy of Digestion; and for Sweetness of Taste, the Plenty of Nourishment it affords, and the Goodness of its Juice, far exceeds it: There are few Fish that have such exquisite Taste, and at the same time so wholesome.

THE Head of this Fish being dried and reduced to a Powder, is looked upon to be good for the Stone, Gravel and Scurvy.

You should chuse the *Sole* that is tender, fresh, firm, white, dainty, and well tasted.

If any Person shall bring to Shore, sell or expose to sale, any *Sole* under eight Inches in Length, from the Eyes to the Extent of the

Tail, forfeits by the Statute 1 Geo. I. Cap. xviii. the Sum of 20s. and the Fish.

The TURBOT or BRETT.

The Turbot, or Brett.

THIS Fish in the Southern Parts of *England* is called a *Turbot*, but in the Northern a *Brett*.

THE Size of this Fish seldom exceeds a Yard in Length, nor two Feet and a half in Breadth: Though he has no Scales, he has a rough granulated Skin full of exceeding small Prickles, placed without Order on the upper Part; the Colour of the same Part is Ash, diversified with a great Number of black Spots, some of which are large, others small, the lower Part is white.

THE Mouth is proportionably wider than that of a *Plaice*; the Eyes are placed on the left Side, or, to speak more intelligibly, on the right Side of the Mouth; there is likewise more Distance between them.

IT is taken frequently in the *British* and *German* Ocean, and is the largest of all this Kind of Fish, except the *Halybut*.

THE Flesh is white, firm, delicate, and wholesome, far excelling the *Plaice*, and all other Fish that resemble it in Shape; nay, it is so highly esteemed by some, as to be preferred before all the Inhabitants of the Water: The Flesh is also nourishing enough, pectoral, good to qualify the sharp Humours of the Breast, and to open the Body.

IT is a Fish of Prey, and lives upon others, particularly *Crabs*, which it is a great Enemy to; for which Reason it lies near the Mouths of

of Creeks and great Rivers ; you are to chuse this Fish whilst it is fresh, firm, white, tender and juicy.

PERSONS bringing to Shore, selling or exposing to Sale any *Turbot* not sixteen Inches long from the Eyes to the Tail, forfeits by Statute 1 *Geo. I. Cap. xviii.* both the Fish and 20 s. and this Act (Sect. 10.) allows this Fish to be imported by any Person, and sold in *Great Britain*, whether of Foreign or *British* catching, as before the 10 & 11 *Will. III. Cap. xxiv.*

The PEARL, or BRILL, or
LUG-ALEAF.

THE *Pearl* differs from a *Plaice* much in *Pearl, or* the same Manner as a *Turbot*, that is, *Brill, or* in not having any rough Lines at the Root of *Lug-Aleaf.* the Fins which surround it ; in having the Eyes placed on the Left-side, to the Right of the Mouth, and farther distant from each other : Likewise in having the Back-Fin taking its Rise nearer the Mouth.

THIS Fish is covered with Scales, but they are very small ; and this distinguishes him from others of the same Kind : The Body is of an Ash Colour, and neither rough nor prickly : The Tail is round, in other Things it resembles a *Turbot*.

ANY Person bringing to shore, selling, or exposing to Sale any *Brill* or *Pearl*, not fourteen Inches long from the Eyes to the Tail, forfeits by Statute 1 *Geo. I. Cap. xviii.* the Sum of 20 s. and the Fish.

The

*The HALYBUT.**Halybut.*

THE *Halybut* is the largest of all Flat-Fish, that we are acquainted with. It exceeds the *Turbot* greatly, and is of a longer Make; one of these Fish of a Yard long, is about half a Yard broad. The upper Part of his Body, is of a dusky Green, almost black; the Scales are small, and there is no Roughness on the upper Part, nor Prickles at the Root of the Fins; the Eyes are placed on the right Side, or to the Left of the Mouth; the Fins at a greater Distance from the Head, than other Flat-Fish.

It is found in the *German* and *British* Ocean, and likewise in the *Irish* Sea; it is thought to be nearly as good as a *Turbot*, for the Fineness of its Taste.

*The SKATE, or FLARE.**Skate, or Flare.*

THE *Skate* is a gristly Fish, with a flat, smooth, and very broad Body; it grows to a very large Size, for some have been taken that have weighed one-hundred Pounds. The Colour, on the upper Part is a pale Ash, very much spotted with black; the under Part is white, and speckled pretty thick, likewise with small black Spots; the Snout is short and sharp; the Sides terminate in Fins; the Males are distinguished by small Prickles on both Sides the broad Part of the Fins, which are wanting in the Females.

ALL Fish of this Sort, when first taken, have a rankish Taste, which by keeping a little

tle vanishes. They are most in Season in the Winter ; for then they do not smell so strong, and their Taste is more pleasant. They are very common on all the Sea Coasts of *Great-Britain, Biscay and Galicia.*

The M A I D.

THIS Fish does not at all differ from the *Maid*. former, but in Age ; for a *Maid* is nothing else, but a young *Skate* ; his Flesh is more sweet, tender, and fitter for the Table, than the *Skate*, which Qualities are owing to its Youth alone.

The T H O R N B A C K, or R A Y.

THE *Thornback* is in Shape almost square *Thorn-* and yet a traverse Line drawn from Cor-*back, or* ner to Corner, is longer than one from the *Ray.* Head to the Root of the Tail, so that in one Sense, this Fish is broader than it is long ; he has no Scales, but is covered with a viscous Liquor, which renders it very slippery ; its upper Part is of a dusky Colour, but pretty full of round white Spots ; the under Part is entirely white. In the Middle of its Back, to the very End of the Tail, is a Row of thirty Prickles, or Thorns, from whence it has gained the Name of *Thornback*. The lower Part of the Tail is smooth, but on each Side, are two other Rows of Prickles, the former Part of which are placed *obliquely*, and the latter *horizontally* : And though the Prickles are often thus disposed, yet we may often see them in much greater Numbers, and differently

A Description of Fifth.

rently placed, nay some have had Thorns upon their Belly.

THEY are found in the like Places, as the *Skate*, and their Flesh is much of the same Taste, but is somewhat more hard of Digestion; the Liver is accounted a great Dainty among some: The *Thornback* is nourishing enough, and affords both a solid and durable Food. Some pretend, that it provokes Venerie, and increases Seed; but its Flesh is hard and not easy of Digestion, causes Wind, and produces heavy and gross Humours, especially if eaten before you let it lie for some Time. They are to be chosen, when they are plump, and as tender.

THEIR Teeth being brayed in a Mortar, may be used to dry up Acid Matters, as well as Crab's Eyes, and all other *Alkalis*.

THEIR Gall is also good for Distempers of the Ears; and *Rondelet* much magnifies the Liver, as being very good against the Itch.

The WHITING.

Whiting.

THE *Whiting* is one of the smallest of this Kind of Fish, it being but seldom met with, above a Foot long; it is a slender Fish for the Size, especially towards the Tail, for about the Head, the Make is considerably larger; the Belly is white, and the Back much whiter than in any other of this Sort, from whence, it derives the Name of *Whiting*; the Fins below the Vent are speckled with black; it has no Barb; the Scales are small, the Eye large, and covered with a transparent loose Skin; the under Jaw is longer than the upper, infomuch

insomuch that when the Mouth is shut, the long crooked Teeth stand out of it ; but those within the Mouth are small.

THE Flesh is sweet, tender, and in universal Esteem, being pretty nourishing, easy of Digestion, and so light on the Stomach, that sick Persons may eat it.

IN some Parts of *England* and *Holland*, they take out the Guts of these Fish, and then dry them, by which Means, they may be kept a considerable Time : They eat pretty enough.

IF a Person brings to Shore, sells, or offers to sell any *Whiting*, not being six Inches in Length, from the Eyes to the End of the Tail, forfeits, by Statute 1 *Geo. I. Cap. xviii.* the Sum of twenty Shillings, and also such Fish ; which said Statute, likewise prohibits Foreigners of foreign Ships importing the same to, or selling them in *England* ; see also 9 *Geo. II. Cap. xxxiii.*

THE *Whiting* you are to chuse, should be fat, tender, short and light. They find small oblong Pearls in the Head of a *Whiting*, which are of an opening Nature, good for the Cholick in the Back, to expel the Stone out of the Bladder and Kidneys, and to stop a Looseness ; they bray them in a Mortar, and the Dose is, from ten Grains to forty.

THERE is another Sort of *Whiting*, not above seven Inches long, which is very common in the *Mediterranean* Sea ; and is called by the *Venetians*, *Mollo*, but by the People of *Marseilles*, *Capelan* ; and is probably, the same Fish which our Countrymen corruptly call *Capelin*, and which they catch upon the *American* Coast, for a Bait in Cod-Fishing. It is of

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of a darker Colour than a common *Whiting*, and has a Barb at his Nose, like a *Cod*. The Flesh is very soft, tender and nourishing.

The WHITING-POUT.

Whiting-Pout.

THE *Whiting-Pout* is remarkably broad, in Proportion to its Length, by which it is distinguished from all other Fish of this Kind; the Edges of the Tail and Fins, are black.

THE Size of this Fish, is generally about eleven Inches long, and three and a half broad. It has small Scales, and is of a Silver Colour on the Body, like a *Whiting*; it has also a smaller Mouth, than any other Fish of this Kind.

THE young Fish of this Sort, are called by the *Londoners*, *Whiting-Mopps*, and are exposed to Sale in great Plenty in *October*.

The WHITING-POLLACK.

Whiting-Pollack.

THIS Fish has this Name given it here, from its Likeness to a *Whiting*: However it is larger, proportionably broader, and not quite so thick; the Back is blackish, or of a dirty Green; the Sides beneath the Lateral Lines, are variously streaked with a dusky Yellow; the Body is Scaly, but the Scales are very small; the Mouth is large, and the Teeth small; the Eyes of a Silver Colour, and large; the lower Jaw is a little more prominent than the upper. *See*

HE differs from a *Cod*, unless in Magnitude, seldom exceeding fourteen or fifteen Inches

Inches in Length, and four in Breadth, in having a proportionably less Head, a broader and thinner Body, in having no Barb, and in the Belly Fins being much less. He is frequently caught near *Penzance*, and *St. Ives*, in *Cornwall*; and is often taken also in Rock-Fishing.

THE Flesh is well tasted, nourishing and flaky, like that of a *Cod*.

The COD, or KEELING.

THE *Cod* is a Fish of about three Feet *Cod, or*
long, or upwards; those that are small, *Keeling.*
are called *Codlings*; it has different Names,
from the different Places, where it is taken,
and from the different Manner of Curing it:
Hence it is called *Green-Fish*, *Iceland-Fish*,
Aberdeen-Fish, *North-Sea Cod*, *Stock-Fish*, *Poor*
John, and *Barrel'd-Cod*

It is a thick round Fish, with a large Head, and a prominent Belly; it is brown on the Back, white underneath, and is full of yellow Spots; the Scales are small, and Eyes large; is about two Feet long, and proportionably in Breadth.

THE Flesh is exceeding good, and highly esteemed, it is greatly in Use, as well fresh as salted; and in *Lent*, it goes by the general Name of *Salt-Fish*. The Head of a large *Cod*, is thought, by the nice Eaters, to be a most excellent Dish; but fresh *Cod* is much more nourishing, and easy of Digestion, than when salted, which should be steeped in Water, before *Easter*.

FRESH *Cod*, that is, *Cod* for present Use,
is

A Description of Fish.

is caught every where on the Coast of *Great-Britain*; but there are particular Times * of Fishing in particular Places, because they are then found in great Plenty.

WHEN the *Cod* leaves the Banks of *Newfoundland*, where is the chieft Fishery for them, they go in Pursuit of *Whittings*; and it is owing to this, that the Return of the *Whiting* is frequent on our Coast. There are two Kinds of salt *Cod*, the one called Green or White, and the other Dried and Cured, though it is all the same Fish, only differently prepared.

AND there is a Statute of 1 *Geo. I. Cap. xviii.* whereby if any Person shall bring to shore, or sell, or offer to sell any *Codling*, not twelve Inches in Length from the Eyes to the End of his Tail, shall forfeit 20 s. and the Fish.

COD, or *Lyng*, by Statute 5 *Eliz. Cap. v. Sect. 10*, is not to be brought in this Realm in Barrels or Casks, but loose and in Bulk, and by Tale, on Forfeiture thereof. As likewise if it is taken and imported by Foreigners, Statute 18 *Car. II. Sect. 2.* 13 *Car. II. Cap. vii. Sect. 16 and 17.* 1 *Geo. I. Cap. xviii.* 9 *Geo. II. Cap. xxxiii.*

You are to chuse the *Cod* that is white, tender, fresh, and well tasted.

* *Vide R. Brook's Art of Angling*, p. 139. As also the Manner of taking, drying, &c. of this Fish at *Newfoundland*, &c. or *Chamber's Cyclopædia*, Article on *Cod Fishery*.

The HADDOCK.

THE *Haddock* is of a middle Size between *Haddock*. a *Cod* and a *Whiting*, and resembles the former both in Shape and Colour, more than any other Fish when full grown. He is blackish on the Back, and is covered with small Scales; not far from the Gills, is a large black Spot, which they say, is a Mark made by the Finger and Thumb of *St. Peter*, that he might distinguish this Fish from others, as being very much to his Liking. The same Monkish Fable is told of another Fish called the *Piper*.

THE Eyes are large, and there is a Barb on the lower Jaw about an Inch long. The Tail is forked, on other Things it resembles a *Cod*.

SOME reckon this to be but a course Fish, and apt to cause Fevers; but that chiefly happens, when it is taken in the Seas that are shallow and muddy, as about *Friesland*; but where the Seas are deep and the Water clear, this Fish is wholesome, well-tasted, and nourishing enough; and the Taste is far from being dispicable; the small Sort of *Haddocks* are often sold for large *Whitings*, and the middle Size for young *Cods*.

STATUTE 15 Car. II. Cap. vii. Sect. 16 and 17, gives Encouragement for North Sea Fisheries, &c. in Catching of *Haddock*.

1 Geo. I. Cap. xviii. and 9 Geo. II. Cap. xxxiii. prohibits the Importation or Sale of this Fish, either by Foreigners, or out of foreign Bottoms.

The HERRING.

Herring.

THE *Herring* is a well known Fish of nine Inches or a Foot long. It is commonly thought to be the *Halec* of the Antients, which is a great Mistake, for *Halec* is not the Name of any Sort of Fish, but only of a Sauce to Salt Fish in general.

THAT which distinguishes this Kind of Fish from all others, it has a Scaly Line that runs along the Middle of the Belly from the Head to the Tail; the Colour of the Belly and Sides are of a shining Silver, and the Scales are large and easily come off. A *Herring* has no Spots; the Belly is sharp like a Wedge; the Eyes red; the lower Jaw a little longer than the upper, and full of Teeth, as are the Palate and Tongue; the Tail is forked.

A *Herring* dies immediately after it is taken out of the Water, whence the Proverb arises, *as dead as a Herring*. The Flesh is every where in Esteem, being fat, soft and delicate, especially if dressed as soon as taken; and that it is every where esteemed, may appear from the vast Quantities that are taken and consumed, as well salted, dried and pickled, as fresh. Their chief Abode seems to be in the Seas, between the North of Scotland, Norway and Denmark, from whence they make annual Excursions, through the *British* Channel, as far as the Coast of Normandy.

THE best Times of Fishing * on the Coast

* The Dutch begin their *Herring* Fishery on the 14th of June, and employ a thousand Vessels therein, called *Busses* or Barks from forty to fifty Tons each.

of *Norfolk* and *Suffolk*, near *Yarmouth*, *Lestoffe* and *Southwold*, are, from the Middle of *September* till the Middle of *October*; they judge where the *Herrings* lie, by the Hovering and Motion of the Sea-Birds, which continually pursue them, in Expectation of Prey: But the chief *Herring* Fishery is in the North Sea, as has already been observed, where there are two Seasons, the First in *June*, *July* and *August*, the Second in *Autumn*; but the latter is the more considerable Season, on Account of the Fogs, which are very favourable to this Kind of Fishing.

FISHERS distinguish their *Herrings* into six different Sorts: As the *Fat Herring*, which is the largest and thickest of all, and will keep about two or three Months; the *Meat Herring*, which is likewise large, but not so thick nor so fat as the former; the *Night Herring*, which is of a middle Size; the *Pluck*, which has received some Damage from the Nets; the *Shotten Herring*, which has lost its Milt or Spawn; and the *Copsken*, which by some Accident or other has been deprived of its Head.

HERRINGS always swim in Shoals, delighting to be near the Shore. They spawn but once a Year, and that is about the *Autumnal Equinox*; a little before which, like most other Fish, they are highest in Season. They are nourishing, easy of Digestion, and produces good Juice: Some apply pickled *Herrings* to the Soles of Mens Feet in Fevers. A young *Herring* is by some, termed a *Yaulin*, or a *White Bait*.

You ought to chuse a *Herring* that is fresh, fat, well-fed; white, short, and of a good

A Description of Fish.

Taste. But Pickled *Herrings* are not so wholesome as Fresh, and Red *Herring* worse than either.

As to the Manner how *Herrings* are to be packed, imported, sold, &c. &c. see Statute 31 *Edw.* III. Stat. 2. Cap. ii. 22 *Edw.* IV. Cap. ii. 11 *Hen.* VII. Cap. xxiii. 5 *Eliz.* Cap. v. 39 *Eliz.* Cap. x. Stat. 1 *Jac.* I. Cap. xxiii. Stat. 15 *Car.* II. Cap. 16 and 17. Stat. 18 *Car.* II. Cap. ii. Sect. 2. Stat. 15 *Car.* II. Cap. vii. Sect. 17. Stat. 15 *Car.* II. Cap. xvi. Sect. 1. 1 *Geo.* I. Cap. xviii. Stat. 9 *Geo.* II. Cap. iii.

The SPRATT, or SPARLING.

Spratt, or Sparling. **A** *Spratt* is so like a *Herring* in every Particular, that after the most diligent Examination, the best Authors have concluded, that there is no Difference between them, but in their Age and Size *.

THEY are taken Annually in great Plenty, about the Winter Solstice; and, as it is well known, are not sold by Number or Weight, but by Measure, at a very low Price.

Statute 1 *Geo.* I. Cap. xviii. Sect. 1. and 9 *Geo.* I. Cap. xxxiii. Sect. 1. prohibits the Importation and Selling of the *Sprat* in *Great-Britain*, if taken, or received by a Foreigner, or out of foreign Ships.

* Though it is remarked by the *Cornish* Fishermen, that there is one Sort of them that never swim further Eastward than the Coast of *Devonshire*; and these say they are young *Pilchards*, whereas there is another Sort that is to be caught every where on the *British* Coast, which are young *Herrings*,

The

The PILCHARD, or SARDIN.

THE *Pilchard* is never above nine Inches *Pilchard.*
long, and is somewhat of a thicker Make *or Sardin.*
than a *Herring*; the Back is of a bluish Green;
the Belly and Sides of a Silver Colour; near
the upper Corner of the Gills, on both Sides,
there are black Spots; and in some there are
four or five placed in a right Line towards the
Tail; his Mouth is wide, without any Teeth;
Eyes of a Middle Size and Silver Colour. In
most other Things it resembles a *Herring*.

THE Flesh eats admirably well, is nourish-
ing, opens the Body, and good for the Swelling
of the Gums and Legs, if pounded and applied
thereto; and much more wholesome Fresh than
Pickled: And is more firm and delicate than
that of a *Herring*; and besides, its Salutary
Properties are no Ways inferior to its Taste.

THE *Pilchard* is a Fish of Passage, and
swims in Shoals in the same Manner as the
Herring and *Anchovy*, and much like the lat-
ter, except that it is larger and thicker, and
differs little from the Shape of a *Shad*, but in
its Size.

THE *Pilchards* caught on our own Coasts
are not so much valued, though bigger, as
those on the Coast of *France*, which is owing
to their not being so well cured.

THE Season of Fishing is from *June* to *Sep-
tember*, though sometimes they are caught on
the Coast of *Cornwall* at *Christmas*. This Fish
ought to be chosen, when it is young, tender
well fed, fresh, and caught in *March* and
April.

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If *Pilchards* are taken by Foreigners, and imported, they are forfeited by Stat. 18 Car. II. Cap. ii. Sect. 2. 1 Geo. I. Cap. xviii. 9 Geo. II. Cap. xxxiii.

The ANCHOVY.

The *An-
chovy.*

THE *Anchovy* is a small Fish, about as thick and as long as one's Finger; but near *Chester* they have been taken much larger; the Body is of a rounder Make than a *Herring*; the Eyes are large, the Body of a silver White, and the Gills are of a shining Red, the Snout sharp, the Mouth wide but without Teeth, the Tail forked.

ANCHOVIES are very common at *Venice* and *Genoa*, as also at *Rome*; but their chief Markets seem to be on the Coast of *Catalonia* in *Spain*, and of *Provence* in *France*. In chusing of them, those that are least ought to be preferred; as also those that are White without, Red within, that are firm, and have round Backs.

THERE is another Sort of Fish sold instead of *Anchovies*, called a *Sardin*, which is very probably a young *Pilchard*, it being larger and flatter than an *Anchovy*, and not so well tasted.

You are to chuse those that are tender, fresh, White without, Red within, small, plump, firm, and well tasted. They are of an opening Nature, fortify the Stomach, and create an Appetite, but are very bad used in excess.

The

**The COAL-FISH or RAWLIN-
POLLACK.**

THE *Coal-Fish* is very like the *Whiting-Coal-Fish*, *Pollack*, only the lateral Lines are white, or *Rawlin-Pollack*. broad, and not so crooked; by which Mark *Pollack*. the Fishermen distinguish it from the *Whiting-Pollack*: Besides, the Colour is more black, lively and shining; likewise all the Fins are of a blackish Blue, the Scales less, and the Eyes larger and more protuberant, and the under Jaw longer than the upper; no Barb, as a *Cod*; and his Tail is more forked. They are taken on the Coast of *Northumberland* and *Yorkshire*, and are called *Coal-Fish* from the black Colour of their Back and Head. The young Ones of this Kind are called *Bil-lards*, *Pollards*, and *Rock-Whittings*.

SOME reckon this Fish to be better than an *Haddock*, and inferior to a *Whiting* or *Cod*; and its consequently sold at a cheaper Rate than the latter.

THERE is another Fish of this Kind, which *Bib*, or the *Cornish* Fisher call a *Bib* or *Blind*, which *Blind*. grows to about the Length of a Foot, and is rather of a broadish Make, than thick and round; and a *Bib* may be distinguished from a *Cod* by its Size, which is smaller, and by its Shape, which is shorter and broader; as also by the Bigness of its Scales.

STATUTE 15 Car. II. Cap. ii. Sect. 16 & 17, relates to encouraging the taking of the *Coal-Fish*, and other Fish, in the North Seas, &c.

A Description of Fish.

STATUTE 1 Geo. I. Cap. xviii. and 9 Geo. II. Cap. xxxiii. about the Importation and sale of this Fish.

The H A K E.

Hake.

THE *Hake* is a Fish about half a Yard long, and sometimes more; it is shaped something like a *Pike*.

WILLOUGHBY compares it to a *Whiting*, which it is most like both in Shape and Colour. He lives on other Fish. His Flesh is soft and tender. They are caught in great Plenty about *Penzance* in *Cornwall*, and in the *British* and *German Ocean*.

The L I N G.

Ling.

THE *Ling* has a Body in Shape long and round, covered with small Scales that adhere to it; the Back and Sides of some are of Olive, of others Ash-coloured and Grey. In short, this Fish is very like a *Hake* in all Things, except in its being of a larger Size, longer Make, having a round Tail, and a Barb on the lower Jaw.

THE Flesh when just caught is very delicious, and when salted and dried, is justly preferred before all other Salt Fish.

It is frequently taken near *Penzance*, and may be fished for all the Year among the Islands of *Scotland*, and on the North East of *England*, from *Easter* till *Midsummer*.

LING is not to be brought into this Realm in Casks or Barrels, but Loose and in Bulk, &c. Vid. *Cod*. And if taken by Foreigners, and imported, it is forfeited. Vid. Statute 18

Car.

Car. II. Cap. ii. Sect. 2. Statute 15 Car. II. Cap. ii. Sect. 17. 1 Geo. I. Cap. xviii. Stat. 9 Geo. II. Cap. xxxiii.

The MACKREL.

THE *Mackrel*. is generally a Foot, and *Mackrel*. sometimes a Foot and a half long. The Body is long, round, thick, and fleshy, but towards the Tail very slender and small; it is not entirely void of Scales, but they are very thin and little; the Tail is so very forked, that it seems almost to be parted into two distinct Fins; the Jaws are equal in Length; the Eyes are large.

THEY are found in large Shoals, in divers Parts of the Ocean, but especially on the Coasts of *France* and *England*; they enter the *English* Channel in *April*, and take their Course through the *Streights* of *Dover*; insomuch that in *June* they advance as far as *Cornwall*, *Normandy* and *Picardy*, &c. where the Fishery is most considerable.

THE Flesh of this Fish is very good, when fresh especially, if they are drest when first taken out of the Water; it is nourishing enough, and of an opening dissolving Nature, but not very easy of Digestion: And there is such a Difference between them and those that are brought to *London*, that it is not to be conceived by any that have not tried: However they are not to be despised, even when they are well cured by Pickling, and put into Barrels.

You are to chuse a *Mackrel* that is new, pretty thick, well fed, tender, juicy, and agreeable

A Description of Fish.

able to the Taste; and a *Mackrel* dressed as soon as taken, is far better tasted than those brought to Shore, and requires no Goosberries or rich Sauce to put it off, Nothing being more palatable or pleasant.

By the 10 and 11 *W. III. Cap. xxiv. Sect. 9.* this Fish is allowed to be sold on *Sundays*, before and after Divine Service, which is an Indulgence peculiar to this Fish. None to be imported or sold in *England*, that is taken or received by Foreigners, or out of Strangers Bottoms, &c. See Stat. 1 *Geo. I. Cap. xviii. 9 Geo. II. Cap. xxxiii.*

TUNNY, or SPANISH MACKREL.

*Tunny, or
Spanish
Mackrel.*

IS a large, heavy, thick Sea-Fish, sometimes weighing upwards of a hundred Pounds; his Body is round, long and thick, but towards the Tail remarkably small. He is a Fish of Passage, rambling from one Part of the Sea to another: In *September* and *October*, they leave the Ocean, and pass through the *Streights* of *Gibraltar* into the *Mediterranean* Sea towards the *Levant*; they swim in Shoals, and are often taken on the Coast of *Cornwall* with their Stomachs full of *Pilchards*; the Time of Fishing being in *September*.

THE Flesh is nourishing enough, solid and durable Food; looked upon to be good against Poison, the Stinging of Serpents, and Biting of mad Dogs, but is hard of Digestion, and heavy upon the Stomach, especially when it is too fat. It is usually eaten in Winter and Autumn, but by those only who have good Stomachs,

machs, and are used to much Exercise. Chuse those which are young, tender, neither too fat nor too lean.

The DOG-FISH, or PICKED DOG-FISH.

THE *Picked Dog-Fish* has a roundish, ob-^{*Dog-Fish,*} long Body, which is covered with a rough^{or *picked*} Skin, of great Use among the Joyners for Po-^{*Dog-Fish.*}lishing Wood. His Back is of a brownish Colour, and Belly white, and more smooth than the other Parts; his Back is provided with two Fins, on the fore Part of both which, are placed two Spines or Thorns, from whence he is called the *Picked Dog-Fish*. He brings forth his Young alive, which are produced from Eggs hatched within the Body of the Fish; he never grows to any large Bulk, the largest never weighing full twenty Pounds, and is frequently in the *British Ocean*, and in the *Irish* and *Mediterranean Seas*.

THERE is another *Dog-Fish*, called the *smooth*, or *unprickly Hound*, which is very much like this, but he has neither Prickles nor Teeth.

THE Flesh of all these Kind of Fish is rank and unwholesome.

The DOREE.

THE *Doree* is a very broad flat Fish, and^{*Doree.*} almost every where of equal Thickness. He is shaped almost like a *Plaice*, but swims erect and therefore ought not to be numbered among the flat Fish.

HIS

A Description of Fish.

HIS Head is very large, Mouth monstrously wide, Eyes yellow and great; Sides of Olive Colour, variously mixed with light Blue; his Size generally about eighteen Inches, and seven or eight broad.

THE Flesh is tender, and easy of Digestion, and for Delicacy, is by many thought superior to that of a *Turbott*.

*The WEEVER.**Weever.*

THE *Weever* has a longish Body, and a strait Back; the Sides are painted with yellow and brown Lines, which run obliquely from the Back towards the Belly; the Mouth wide, and the lower Jaw a little more prominent than the upper; he is often taken a Foot and Half long; the Flesh firm, and eats agreeably enough.

*LOBSTER.**Lobster.*

THE *Lobster* is better known by Sight, than described. They always feed at the Bottom of the Water, and are furnished with a Pair of strong Claws, with which they fasten on the larger Prey, that happens to come within their Reach; their Flesh is sweet, restorative, and very innocent.

By the Statute of 10 and 11 W. III. Cap. xxiv. Sect. 7. any Person who brings on Shore, or offers to sell any *Lobster* not eight Inches from the Peak of the Nose, to the End of the Middle Fin of the Tail, forfeits 1 s. for each *Lobster*. And Stat. 1 Geo. I. Cap. xviii. Sect. 10. allows this Fish to be imported and sold in

in *Great-Britain*, though of foreign Catching, as before, Stat. 10 and 11 *Will. III. Cap. xxiv.*

The CRAB, CRAW-FISH, PRAWN, and SHRIMP.

THE *Crab* is much of the same Nature as *Crab.* the *Lobster*; they often lie in the Mouths of Rivers, Creeks, and Ponds made with Salt Water; and there are two Sorts, *viz.* the Sea and fresh Water *Crab*: The first is generally larger than the latter. *Crabs* are nourishing, of a strengthening Nature, allays the sharp Humours, cleans Ulcers in the Throat, if eaten as they are, or taken in Broth. Chuse those, that are fat, well fed, tender and of a good Taste.

THE *Craw-Fish*, or *Cray-Fish* exactly resembles a *Lobster* in Shape, and is to be found in most Brooks and Rivulets in *England.* *Craw-Fish, or Cray-Fish.*

THE *Prawn* and the *Sbrimp* harbour themselves in the Holes of Rocks, and such like Places along the Sea Coast. *Prawn, and Sbrimp.*

THE *Prawn*, by some is called a *Buntin*, and the *Red Sbrimp*, which is chiefly caught in the *Medway*, is called by the Fishmongers, a *Prawn.* *Buntin, or Red Sbrimp.*

THE Flesh of all these Sorts of Fish are of the same Nature, and only differ in Degree of Goodness; they are all supposed to have a restorative Quality, and therefore must be very nourishing and wholesome.

SCOLLOP.

Scollop.

THE *Scollop* is a Shell-Fish, of a sweeter, and more agreeable Taste than an *Oyster*, and according to *Rondeletius*, is more easily digested, and more wholesome.

MR. *Reaumur*, a Name well known in the learned World, has taken some Pains to discover in what Manner, the Shells of divers Animals are first formed, and afterwards encrease; which he proves to be from a certain Juice, which perspires from their Bodies, and forms new Shells for those Animals that cast them, and encreases the Shells of those that do not.

The OYSTER, MUSCLE, COCKLE,
and PERIWINKLE.

Oyster.

THESE Fish are all so well known to every Body, as to stand in no Need of a particular Description.

THE *Oyster* casts its Spawn or Spat in *May*, which at first appears like the Drop of a Candle: It sticks to any hard Substance it falls upon, and seems to be provided with a Shell in two Days Time, and in three Years they are fit for the Market. These *Oysters* they term *Natives*, and they are altogether incapable of moving from the Place where they are first spawned, and which are by the Dredgers taken and carried to different Places, where they are laid in Beds or Rills of Salt-water, in order to fat them, and these they term *Layers*. Those, which when they are spawned,

spawned, happen to stick to Rocks, often grow to a very large Size, and are called *Rock-Oysters*. The best *Oysters*, and most valued for the Goodness of their Taste, are those found near the *English* Shores; and those roasted, are not so soon digested as the raw ones, as they are thereby deprived of that saltish Juice naturally contained in them, and which does not a little help the Digestion of them in the Stomach *. Chuse those which are fresh, pretty large, tender, moist, delicious, well-tasted, and that have not been taken in Dirty and muddy Water †.

BUT it is otherwise with the *Muscle* and *Cockles* sticking to the Rocks, for they being lighter, are more liable to be carried along by any Motion of the Water; and if they cannot move themselves from Place to Place, they can, however, hinder themselves from being the Sport of the Waves. For this Purpose, they are capable of forming several Strings of the Thickness of Hairs, about three Inches long, and sometimes to the Number of 250; with these they lay Hold of any Thing that is near them. Mr. *Reaumur* has often seen them making these Threads; and when he has cut them off, they have begun to make others. The Instrument that the *Muscle* employs in producing these Threads, is what we commonly call the *Tongue*, in the midst of which is a narrow Channel, which serves for a Sort

* *Oyster* Shells being calcined, and reduced to Powder, is of an opening, drying, and deterfive Nature, good for cleaning of Teeth, and to consume acid Humours.

† See 9 *Ann.* Cap. 26. Sect. 2. 2 *Geo.* II. Cap. 19, and 10 *Geo.* II. Cap. 30.

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of a Mould for their first Formation. The Sea *Muscle* is much preferable to the River, provided they be tender, well-fed, white, delicious, and well tasted. They are Opening, nourish a little, and of a drying, dissolving Nature.

THE *Cockle* has likewise a Power of making these Threads, as well as the *Muscle*; the only Difference is, that those of the *Cockle* are more thick and short. The *Muscle* Shell being brayed in a Mortar, may be taken from half a Scruple to a Dram, to stop Looseness, and waste sharp Humours. It is used as a Deterfive, and for consuming the Rheums that arise in the Horses Eyes.

Periwinkle.

As for the *Periwinkle*, there is nothing remarkable can be said of it, but what belongs in common to all Animals that have Shells. Their Bodies consists of a thick slimy Substance, for which Reason they are looked upon as a restorative Diet, but not very tempting upon any other Account.

FIRESLAW.

Firelaw.

THE *Firelaw* is a flat Fish, of a black Colour, in Make somewhat like a *Thornback*, but without Prickles, and weighs from 30 to 80 Pounds.

GENERAL



GENERAL
OBSERVATIONS
ON THE
NATURE of FISH.



HAVING thus given a short Description of Fish, I shall proceed in the most natural Road of Meditation, by pointing out so much of the Properties and Mechanism of Fish in general, as may enable us to consider them with Understanding. The Points I shall here chiefly insist on, are, the Element peculiar to Fish; their Cloathing, their Numbers, the regular Passage of some Species, their Wars, and the Means of their Preservation; their Fecundity, and the Purport of it; their Food; the natural Cause of their Swimming, with the peculiar Use of their Tail, Fins, Bags of Air, and Gills; their other Parts, their Cunning, their Sensations, and the extraordinary Share of Life in some Kinds of them.

THE Universe abounds with an infinite Variety of living Creatures: Some are Inhabitants of the Air; others range around the Fields, or crawl upon the Ground: Thousands reside in the inmost Recesses of Woods, or in

R

the

Observations on Fish.

the Hearts of Leaves, and under the Barks of Trees; some in the Chinks or Crevises of Walls, and others in the most gloomy Caverns: The very Bowels of the Earth are hollowed and filled with Inhabitants.

ALL these Animals, how different soever from each other, with respect to their Nature and Way of Life, enjoy one Benefit in common; they all breath the fluid Air.

BUT we have, at present, another Element under our Consideration, wherein all of them are stifled as soon as they are plunged into it: Yet we therein discover a vast Variety of Beings; and observe, that as terrestrial Animals are suffocated in the Waves, so the Inhabitants of the watry Regions soon expire in the Air, and cannot long subsist out of that Element, to which they are consigned.

HENCE it is hard to comprehend how their Blood should circulate with that freedom, which it indisputably does; for one would think it should coagulate and condense, by the excessive Chillness of the Waters.

SUCH Animals as live upon the Earth, are either furnished with Feathers, and a delicate Down, or invested with warm Furrs, or long Hairs, to defend them from the Inclemencies of the Air, which is sometimes exceedingly cold: But no Fish, as we can find, have any such agreeable Accommodations. How then has Nature provided for them, that they are able to subsist in an Element much colder than Air? Let us recollect what we have often discovered in, as we have been accidentally handling a Fish, or cutting one open. The first Thing that offers itself to our Touch, is a certain

tain glutinous Matter, with which the whole Surface of the Creature's Body is duly moistened. We find, moreover; a Coat, consisting of strong and beautiful Scales; and, before *Scales.* we come to the Animals Flesh, we observe a Kind of Lard, or oily Substance, which extends from the Head to the Tail, and surrounds the whole. Though we cannot easily conceive how these Scales are formed, or how they gradually encrease, and are supplied, or what is the Origin, and Reservoir, of this Oil; yet these Scales, by their Solidity, and this Oil, by its Antipathy to the Water, keeps the Fish warm, and gives him Life and Vigour. He could not possibly be furnished with a lighter Vestment, or one more impenetrable, or more suitable to the Dangers they are exposed to, and the Business they are to perform.

THE Sea carries off from the Lands, which it washes, a Vitriol and Bitumen, that, like itself, being in a perpetual Motion, disperse and incorporate in such a Manner with the smallest Particles of the Water, that no Filtrations, no Alembicks, or any other Devices, how artful soever, have been able to purify and free it from its brackish Taste. It is in this nauseous and offensive Water, however, that the *All-wise Creator* has thought fit to improve and bring to Perfection the Flesh of those Fish, which the most Voluptuous prefer before the choicest Fowles. In an Element that produces nothing, it is impossible, one would imagine, that the Number or Fertility of the *Numbers.* Inhabitants should be any Thing considerable; yet what a prodigious Quantity of *Muscles,*

Observations on Fish.

Crabs, Lobsters, and of other Fish of an enormous Size; what Piles of *Oysters*, whose Whiteness and Fatness give a Keeness to the Appetite; what a Profusion of *Turbets, Flounders, Dabs, Shads, Plaice*, and all the various Species of flat Fish, whose Flesh is so exceedingly admired, does it furnish us with?

WE observe, in the Season, whole Fleets of Ships freighted with *Herrings*, and at other Times, Shoales of *Mackerel* and *Whitings* present themselves voluntarily before us on our Coasts; insomuch, that whole Provinces are supplied with a sufficient Quantity of them, by the bare Capture of a single Day. Legions of *Smelts* and *Flounders* forsake the salt Waters in the Spring, and begin to swim up the Rivers. *Shads* follow the same Tract, and grow to their full Perfection in the fresh Water. *Salmons* continue till July, and sometimes later, to enrich the Fishers, though threescore, and sometimes fourscore Leagues from the Sea. Every Season regales us with fresh Delicacies, without the Interruption of their usual Presents, such as *Lampreys, Smelts, Tunnies, Soles, Thornbacks*, and a vast Variety of other Fish, that adorn our Dishes, and gratify the nicest Taste. What a Delicacy, what a Profusion of Provisions do we receive from the Indulgence of this Element!

THIS very Delicacy, however, might possibly so enhance their Value, that none but the Rich could purchase them, or the Plenty might be so great, that the Corruption of the Whole, or the greatest Part, might prevent their timely Consumption: But both these Inconveniencies are effectually prevented by a little

little Salt. Thus the Sea is lavish of her Stores, and at the same Time furnishes us with that which renders their Communication easy, and their Conveyance safe. We observe likewise, in this Profusion of the Sea, a Precaution which enhances the Value of her Gifts, and proves an additional Blessing. Such Fish as are wholesome Food, and agreeable to the Taste, are exceedingly prolific; but those, on the other Hand, whose Flesh is unpalatable, or prejudicial to our Health, and whose monstrous Size renders them formidable to others, for the generality bring forth their Young compleatly formed into the World, and seldom more than one or two at a Birth.

THE same Wisdom that has regulated with such Indulgence, the Bounds of their Fecundity, keeps those at a wide Distance from our Shores, which we have the least Occasion for, and puts others in our Possession, which are of most Benefit and Advantage to us. Some Species are with us all the Year long, and others pay us an annual Visit in prodigious Multitudes. The exact Time of their Passage, and their peculiar Tract, is well known, which are very advantageous Circumstances, though it may vary 10 or 15 Days, by Means of strong Winds, or bad Weather. We may form an adequate Idea of other Fish of Passage from the *Herrings* and *Cods*. The former seem to have their principal Rendezvous between the Points of *Scotland*, *Norway*, and *Denmark*. From thence the *Danish* Colonies take their annual Progress, and, at different Seasons, cross the Channel. Their Voyage is performed with the utmost Exactness; their

The Passage of the Herring,

Tract is prescribed, and their March regulated. The whole Body move all at once ; not one of them presume to straggle, pillage, or desert. When the Body of their Army is once passed, not one of the same Species appears again till the Year ensuing. An infinite Number of Worms and little Fish are bred every Summer in the Channel, with which the *Herrings* regale themselves. They are a Sort of *Manna*, which these Animals never fail of picking up ; and when they have cleared the Seas in the *Northern* Parts of *Europe*, they descend towards the *South*, to which they are attracted by the pleasing Prospect of a new Stock of Provisions.

WE have but very few *Cod-fish* in our Seas. Their Rendezvous is at the immense Bank before *Newfoundland*. There they are so numerous, that the Fishermen, who resort thither from all Parts, are constantly employed, and find their Labours attended with surprising Success. One Man shall sometimes catch three or four Hundred in a Day. When the Sustenance that attracts them is exhausted in these Parts, they disperse, and proclaim open War with the *Whitings*, which are their favorite Aliment. The latter fly before them ; and their frequent Returns on our Coasts, are principally owing to this hostile Chace.

The Passage of the
Cod.

HAVING thus mentioned the Wars of the *Cods* and *Whitings*, I must take Notice of one Circumstance that reigns through all the Species of Fish. The *Muscle* lies in Ambuscade within the Mud ; there she opens her Shell, and when a small unwary *Crab* presumes to creep in, she claps them close together in an Instant,

Instant, and secures her Prey. The *Oyster* takes the same Measure to ensnare such little Fish as are not on their Guard. The *Sole* springs instantaneously from her Ambuscade, and regales herself with this delicious Food, which pampers her up, and gives her an exquisite Flavour. The small *Soles*, in their Turns, are equally an agreeable Collation to the large *Crabs*; and when we open one of these latter, we seldom fail of finding one or two *Soles* in the Belly of it. You may form an Idea of the other Species by this. All the several Classes of living Creatures that breed in the Water, from the biggest to the least, are constantly in Action, and at War with each other. It is one continued Series of Artifices, Flights, Evasions, and open Violence. They pillage and devour one another, without Remorse or Moderation.

BUT if the Inhabitants of the watery Regions have such a watchful Eye upon the scattered *Spawn*, and are thus addicted to devour one another, this Element, one would think, must, in Process of Time, cease to be replenished; for since the lesser Fish are the proper Sustenance of the larger, the former must of Course be all destroyed, and the latter, in their Turns, perish for Want of Subsistence.

THE *Almighty*, however, has taken proper Measures for the Preservation of Fish, by giving Strength to some, Activity and Circumspection to others; and by a Multiplication of them to such a prodigious Degree, that their Fecundity exceeds their natural Inclination to prey upon each other. Be the Number of *Cods* ever so great, that have been caught this

Year, or devoured in the Sea by the Invasion of their Enemies, there is still a Remainder of that Tribe, which is more than sufficient to furnish us with as large a Quantity about two Years hence. The Fact is demonstrable by the following Instance: A fine fresh *Cod* being produced before Mr. *Leuwenboeck*, he had the Curiosity to count her Eggs, for which Purpose he took as many as weighed a Dram, and told them over: After this he weighed the whole Mass of Eggs, which, allowing eight Times the Number to every Ounce, amounted to no less than *nine Millions, three Hundred and forty-four Thousand Eggs*. As incredible as this Account may seem to be at first View, the Quantity of Eggs so frequently found in a common *Carp*, though far short of the Number contained in a large *Cod*, is so far surprising, that we may be fully satisfied Mr. *Leuwenboeck*'s Calculation is just. When we come to search into the wise End of this amazing Fertility, we are immediately convinced, that it is not to replenish either the Rivers, or the Sea, with the same Quantity of Fish as there are Eggs: For if it were so, the Ocean itself would scarce be able to contain them. It is manifest, however, that there is a double Intention in this Fruitfulness; in the first Place, to preserve the Species, whatever Accidents may happen; and, in the next, to furnish the surviving Fish with a plentiful and succulent Subsistence.

THUS we perceive, in some Measure, the Manner in which the Fish are nourished and preserved. There are such an infinite Number of Weeds, Worms, Shell-fish, Eggs, Roes,

Roes, and minute Fish lodged within the Waters, that we need be in no Manner of Concern for the Inhabitants, with Respect to their Provisions. They have, we perceive, their certain Allowance. — But then their Aliment lies concealed, or flies before them; and we can discern nothing in these Fish but a Head, a large inactive Body, and a Tail. As they have so few Organs, we naturally ask, How are Fish capable of Advancing, Swimming, and Seizing their Prey? To solve this, we must consider the Form or Figure of all Fish in *Shape.* general, which being strait, and growing always somewhat taper at the Head, enables them to traverse the Water. The Tail, by the Assist-*Tail.* ance of the Muscles, is exceedingly plyant, strong, and active; inclines to the Right and Left, and, when reduced to a direct Line, repels the Water that lies behind it: Immediately it resumes its Playing, and, by this alternate Motion, advances the Head, and, in short, the whole Body, in a much more agreeable a Manner than an Oar, worked alternately to and fro at the Stern of a Boat, conveys it up a River, and, in short, is the grand Instrument of progressive Motion.

THE Fins which lie under the Fish's Belly, *Fins.* are sometimes of singular Service, not only in repelling the Water, and advancing the Body, but in stopping its Course, when they are extended, and lie at rest. Their peculiar Office, however, is to direct the Movement of the Body, by keeping it in an equal Poise; so that in Case the Fish should only move the Fins on its right Side, and bring those on his left Side close to his Body, all the Motion is in

in an Instant determined to that Side ; just as a Boat, that has two Oars, when but one is made Use on, will infallibly turn to that Side, whereto it is impelled by the Working of the other. If you cut off a Fish's Fins, the Back, which is heavier than the Belly, being no longer in an Equilibrium, will either lie a-slant, or be turned directly up ; as is the Case with dead Fish, whose Fins lie always on the Surface of the Water.

Air-Bladder.

It is easy to conceive, from what has been said, how Fish is capable of advancing in a direct Line : But the Difficulty that remains, is, how they do rise and fall in the Water. Now, it must be observed, that most Fish have a Bladder, or something equivalent to it ; the Use of which, is quite different from what most People imagine. This supposed Bladder is a Bag of Air, by Virtue of which, the Fish is enabled, according to its Enlargement and Contraction, to rise or sink.

NOTHING is more easy to be conceived than this, if we lay down, as incontestable Maxims, equally consistent with Experience and good Sense ; 1. That a Body will swim upon the Water, when it is lighter than that Quantity of the Fluid whose Place it fills. 2. That a Body is more ponderous, according as the Parts of it are more compact, and contain in them a lesser Quantity of Air ; and lighter, according as they are porous, and contain in them a larger Quantity of Air.

THESE Positions allowed, the Body of a Fish, which is heavier than the Mass of Water, whose Place it possesses, would unavoidably sink to the Bottom, had not the Fish in
its

its Intestines, a Vessel, or Bag, filled with Air, which renders him capable of sustaining himself in what particular Part of the Water he sees most convenient for his Purpose. This Bag dilates the Fish, in some Measure, and makes some small Improvement to its natural Bulk, without any Addition to its Weight. By this Means he possesses a larger Space than he would do without it, and this brings him to an equal Poise with that Body of Water whose Place he fills. Let us suppose the Fish, without his Bag, to weigh sixteen Ounces, and the Water, whose Place he occupies, to weigh fifteen only, the Fish must unavoidably descend. If, however, you afterwards supply the Fish with a small Bag of Air, which adds nothing to its Weight, but enlarges his Dimensions, so that the Mass of Water, whose Place he fills, weighs sixteen Ounces, the Fish will then be in an equal Poise with that Mass, and be supported in any Part of the River.

Now supposing the Fish to extend his Bag, he must enlarge the Dimensions of his Body without the Addition of any Weight: And, if he becomes lighter, he must consequently rise. On the contrary, should the Fish contract his Bag, he will decrease in his Dimensions, without any Diminution of his Weight, whereby he must become heavier than the Water, whose Place he occupies, and unavoidably must sink. How improbable soever this Distention and Contraction may seem, they have been evinced by incontestable Demonstrations. This Bag of his, for the generality, has two small, but distinct Partitions: One, which is always equally full of Air, in
order

order to keep the Fish in an equal Poise with the Mass of Water whose Place he fills; the other is dilated or contracted, to enable the Fish to become lighter or heavier, or, in other Terms, to rise or sink, as Occasion requires.

Gills.

THE Water abounds with Particles of Air, diffused through the Whole. What we generally call the *Gills* of a Fish, are a Sort of Lungs, which he opens for the Admission of Air, and which are formed with such a peculiar Mechanism, that they receive it without the least Intermixture of any Water: The Air indisputably flows into the Bag through them, and by Vertue thereof, the Fish ascends: But when he is inclined to sink, he has nothing more to do, than to contract his Bag, for the Air immediately reascends to the Gills, and has a free and uninterrupted Passage. The Fish thereupon sinks to the Bottom, and the Rapidity of his Descent is proportioned to the Quantity of Air that is ejected.

Jaws.

EVERY Kind of Fish has its Jaws framed for the taking in and macerating its particular Sort of Food. Such as feed upon Weeds and Insects, have seldom any Teeth; but such as prey upon other Fish, have one, two, or more Rows of Teeth, for the better Grinding of their Nourishment; in which, as in all other Things, the Wisdom of Providence is manifest.

Teeth.

Back-bone.

THE Back-bones of Fish, for the more easy bending of their Bodies, consist of very short *Vertebrae*, so joined, that their Tail and Head may be easily brought together; and their Scales, which in many Species of them, are amazingly beautiful, and so regularly placed in Rows,

Scales

one

one over another, that they never obstruct their Motion. Some Kinds, indeed, have no Scales, which usually generate by Copulation, and bring forth their Young alive, and perfectly formed.

BESIDES the Arms of Defence which Nature has given some Fish, they have generally a remarkable Cunning in forming their Nests, for the Preservation of their Young. *Cunning.*

As to the Power of Sensation, Fish seem to enjoy it as perfectly as any other Sort of Animals. Their Sight, Taste, and Smelling, indeed, are not disputed; but many, who pretend to be curious Observers, deny them the Sense of Hearing. This, however, is an Error, as appears from Experiment: For if you use to feed Fish in a Pond at any particular Place, and practise them to some certain Call, they may be brought to come together at that Call, though you keep ever so much out of Sight; and whence the contrary Opinion had its Rise, I cannot determine; but the Romans were wiser in the Time of Domitian, than to entertain it, as appears from this Epigram of Martial, upon the Fish-ponds of that Emperor. *Sensation.*

*Rash Angler, here thy guilty Sport forbear,
These finny Natives are a Monarch's Care.
The gentle Kind obey his known Command,
And feed familiar from his sporting-Hand:
Each has his Name, which sev'rally they bear,
And to their Owner's Summons strait appear.*

As to the Age of Fish, nothing certain can be produced, except that they are not so short-

short-lived as most of the Antients imagined ; for Instance, a *Salmon* is six Years in growing, before he is thought worthy of that Title in *Yorkshire*, notwithstanding that some affirm, that he comes to his full Growth in a Year : On the other Hand, it has been related, that *Longevity.* a *Carp* will live a hundred Years, and is well known to move vigorously some Time after the Intestines are taken out of his Body : As likewise the *Eel* maintains Life and Motion for some Hours after he is cut in Pieces : But I have mentioned somewhat of this, in the Description I have given of the several Sorts of Fish, so shall say no more on this Head at present.

IN the Summer, all Fish usually lie in the more shallow Part of the River, some in a strong and swift, others in a gentle Stream, except *Carp*, *Tench*, and *Eel* : But in Winter, all fly into the deep still Places.

ALL Fish whatever, that swim in clear Rivers, are wholsomer, pleasanter, and far better tasted, than those of the same Kind that live in Pits, Ponds, Meers, or standing Waters. A Hog-back, and a little Head, either to *Trout*, *Salmon*, or any other Fish, are a Sign they are in Season.

ALL Sorts of Fish that have Scales on their Bodies, constantly swim in Troops and Companies, as the *Roach*, *Dace*, *Gudgeon*, &c.

THE Females of most Fish are larger than the Males.

SEVERAL Counties alter the Time, and almost the Manner of Fishes Breeding ; but especially the Time of their being in Season ;

as

as in the River *Wye*, in *Monmouthshire*, *Salmon* are in Season from *September* to *April*; but in the *Thames*, *Trent*, and most other Rivers, they are in Season almost all the six hot Months.

ALL Fish are of a cold and moist Temperature; but some of the same Species exceed others in Goodness, according to the Nature of the Water and Place wherein they live.

SEA Fish are accounted better than those in fresh Water, as being more savory, and of a firmer Substance, hotter and dryer, and not so viscous, clammy, and slimy, as the fresh Water Fish. Of Sea Fish, those that have Scales, and firm Substances, are best, and such as are inclosed in Shells, as the *Oyster*, *Lobster*, and *Crabs*, &c. Fish that live in pure Water, tossed to and fro with Waves, are better than those that live in calm and muddy Waters, that are little agitated; and those that live near sandy, rocky Shores, are better than where there is much Slime and Mud: But Fish are generally the fattest, though not the sweetest, that are fed in muddy or weedy Rivers: From which said last Observations, it is evident, how preferable the *Thames* Fish are to most other Rivers. But to conclude this Subject with an Observation on Fish and Fisheries, in a more publick or general Sense.

FISH, considered as Food, makes a considerable Article in the Furniture of the Table; and the Breeding, Feeding, and Catching, &c. of them, make a peculiar Art of no small Moment in the Oeconomy of a Gentleman's House and Gardens.

Observations on Fish.

FISH, with Regard to Commerce, is distinguished into *Dry, Pickled, Green, and Red.*

DRY, or salt Fish, is that which is salted and dried, either by the Heat of the Sun, or by Fire: Such principally are the *Cod, Stock-Fish, Herring, and Pilchard.*

GREEN Fish, is that lately salted, and which yet remains moist; as green *Cod, &c.*

PICKLED Fish, is that boiled and steeped in a Pickle, made of Salt, Vinegar, &c. as *Salmon, Cod, Herring, Mackrel, Pilchard, Anchovy, and Oysters.*

RED Fish, is some fresh Fish broiled on the Gridiron, then fried in Oil of Olives, and barrelled up with a proper Liquor, as new Olive-Oil, Vinegar, Pepper, Salt, Cloves, Laurel-Leaves, and other Herbs. The best Fish thus prepared, are *Sturgeon and Tunny.*

FISHERIES denote the Commerce of Fish, more especially the Catching them for Sale. The Fishery makes a principle Branch of the *British* Commerce; a great Quantity of Vessels, and Seamen, are employed therein; and besides what is spent at Home, above 200000 *l. Sterling* is yearly returned, meerly for *Herring* and *Cod*, exported to *Spain, Italy*, several Parts of the *Mediterranean*, and the Islands of the *Archipelago*. Yet are our Countrymen reproached, and with a good deal of Justice, for their Remissness in this Branch of Trade. The advantageous Situation of our Coasts, might be of immense Benefit to us, did we not let our Neighbours over-reach us therein. The *Dutch, French, Hamburgers, &c.* come yearly in huge Sholes, and not only take the
Fish

Fish from our own Doors, but sell them to us for our Money when they have done.

SCOTLAND suffers incredibly on this Score: No Country in *Europe* can pretend to rival it in the Abundance of the finest Fish, wherewith its numerous Harbours, Loughs, Rivers, &c. are stored. In the River *Dee*, it is said, a 170 Head of *Salmon* is not very extraordinary for a single Draught of a Net; and the pickled *Salmon* sent hence, is allowed to be the best in *Europe*: The *Scotish* Islands, especially those on the western Side, do certainly lie most commodiously for carrying on the Fishing Trade to Perfection. King *Charles the First* began the Experiment, in Conjunction with a Company of Merchants; but the Civil Wars soon set it aside. King *Charles the Second* made a like Attempt, but having pressing Occasion for Money, he was persuaded to withdraw what he had employed in the Fishery, with which the Merchants, joined with him, were so much displeased, that they did the like.

SINCE the Union, several Efforts have been made to retrieve it; and there is now a Corporation settled on that Footing, called the *Royal British Fishery*, though now in a very languishing Condition, and ready to sink.

To conclude this Chapter, and in order for the more ready Information of all those who are inclined to look into the several Statutes relating to Fish, Fisheries, and Fishings, I shall here subjoin those Acts of Parliament which relate thereunto.

*ACTS relating to Fish, Fisheries, and Fishing.**STATUTES.*

THirteenth *Edw. I.* Cap. xlvii. *Salmon, &c.*
in Defence.

31 *Edw. III.* Stat. ii. Cap. i. *Herrings sold at Sea.*

31 *Edw. III.* Stat. ii. Cap. ii. *Herrings, Yarmouth, &c.*

31 *Edw. III.* Stat. ii. Cap. iii. *Stock-Fish of St. Botolph, Salmon of Berwick, Fish and Wines of Bristuit, &c.*

31 *Edw. III.* Stat. iii. Cap. i. *Fishery of Blackeney, and the Coasts of Satterly, Wintow, &c. in the County of*

31 *Edw. III.* Stat. iii. Cap. ii. *Fair at Blackeney. Lob, Ling, Cod, Orgies, Selling, &c. Their Nets, &c. Norfolk.*

35 *Edw. III.* About Buying and Selling *Herrings. Yarmouth.*

4 *Rich. II.* Fishmongers Trade laid open. *Query, If now in Force.*

6 *Rich. II.* Cap. x. *Fish and Victuals to be sold by Aliens in London, enforced by 1 Hen. IV. Cap. xvii. 14 Hen. VI. Cap. vi. Query, If not since repealed.*

7 *Rich. II.* Cap. xi. *Fishers, Vintners, and Victuallers, coming to London, to be in the Rule of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen.* 31 *Edw. III.* Stat. i. Cap. x.

N. B. Repeals the Statutes of 5 *Rich. II.* Cap. iv. and 6 *R. II.* Cap. xi. and xii. touching *Victuallers of London.*

13 *Rich.*

13 *Richard* II. Cap. xix. Confirms Stat. 13 *Edw.* I. Cap. xlvii. and appoints Conservators of it, &c.

17 *Rich.* II. Cap. ix. All Justices of Peace to be Conservators of 13 *Edw.* I. Cap. xlvii. and 13 *R.* II. Cap. xix. who are to appoint Sub-Conservators under them, &c.

2 *Hen.* VI. Cap. xv. Penalty on fastening Trinck, or other Nets, over the Thames, or other Rivers. Trinckers may fish lawfully.

14 *Hen.* VI. Cap. vi. Penalty on disturbing *Aliens* selling their Fish.

22 *Edw.* IV. Cap. ii. *Salmon* Vessels. *Salmon* fold, packed. *Grill* packed. *Herrings* packed, fold in Barrels, &c. *Eels* barrelled, &c. Length, &c. Of barrelled Fish. *Grills*, *Thokes*, &c. Tale-Fish, their Length, &c.

11 *Hen.* VII. Cap. xxiii. What Fees Gaugers, Packers, and Searchers of barrelled *Salmon*, *Herrings*, *Eels*, &c. are entitled to, with Penalty on their offending, &c.

31 *Hen.* VIII. Cap. ii. Sect. 2. Penalty on fishing in Ponds, &c. against the Will of the Owner. See 5 *Eliz.* Cap. xxi.

2 and 3 *Edw.* VI. Cap. vi. Sect. 3. Penalty on Admirals taking Money, Doles, &c. of Fishermen or Merchants, for License to pass to Voyages for Fish, &c.

1 *Eliz.* Cap. xvii. A general Provision for preserving of the Spawn, Brood, and Fry of Fish. Made perpetual by 2 *Car.* II. Cap. iv.

5 *Eliz.* Cap. v. No Toll for Sea Fish, except on *Kingston upon Hull*. Penalty on *Herring* or Sea Fish, &c. not well salted, packed, &c. *Cod* and *Ling* to be imported loose, and not in Barrels.

Acts relating to Fish, &c.

5 *Eliz.* Cap. xxi. Penalty on Fishing in Ponds, &c. against Owner's Consent.

39 *Eliz.* Cap. x. Exporting of *Herrings* bought in this Realm. Customs to be paid by *Aliens* for felled Fish and *Herrings*. Penalty on importing or salting bad salt Fish or *Herring*. See 43 *Eliz.* Cap. ix.

1 *Ja.* I. Cap. xxiii. Sect. 3. Relates to the taking of *Herring*, *Pilchard*, and other Sea Fish in the Counties of *Somerset*, *Devon*, and *Cornwall*.

3 *Ja.* I. Cap. xii. No Wears along the Sea Coast, &c. Penalty on Killing, &c. Of the Brood, &c. Of Sea Fish. Affize, &c. Of Sea Nets.

13 and 14 *Car.* II. Cap. ii. Sect. 36. Relates to Exportation of Fish into any Ports of the *Mediterranean*.

13 and 14 *Car.* II. Cap. xxviii. Penalty on Fishing from *June* to *November* in the high Sea, or any Bay, Port, &c. of *Cornwall* or *Devon*, with any Drift, &c. Net, nearer than a League and half to the Shore, &c. &c.

15 *Car.* II. Cap. vii. Sect. 16, 17. No fresh *Herring*, fresh *Cod*, or *Haddock*, *Cole Fish*, or *Grill Fish*, from the *North Sea* Island, and *Westinary* Fisheries, shall be imported, Penalty Ship and Fish. Salted or dried *Cod*, *Cole Fish*, *Lyng*, *White Herrings*, *Haddocks*, and *Grill Fish*, imported in foreign-built Ships, to pay Custom.

15 *Car.* II. Cap. xvi. How *White* or *Red Herrings* of *English* Catching, are to be packed, salted, dried. Bailiffs of *Yarmouth*, &c. to appoint Packers. *Island*, *Westmony*, *Newfoundland*.

18 *Car.*

18 *Car.* II. Cap. ii. No *Lyng, Herring, &c.* to be imported by Foreigners. 22 and 23 *Car.* II. Cap. xxv.

30 *Car.* II. Cap. ix. A general Provision for preserving the Spawn, Brood, and Fry of Fish in the River *Severn*.

32 *Car.* II. Cap. ii. Sect. 7. *Stock-fish* and live *Eels* may be imported.

4 and 5 *W. and M.* Cap. xxiii. Relates to private Fisheries, &c. &c.

10 and 11 *W.* III. Cap. xxiv. Concerning *Billingsgate* Market, Duties, &c. Assize of *Lobsters* brought on Shore and sold. No Fish (except *Stock-fish* and live *Eels*) to be imported or sold by Foreigners. Importation of *Anchovies, Sturgeon, Botargo, and Cavear*, also excepted.

10 *W.* III. Cap. xxv. Relates to the Fisheries of *Newfoundland*, and the Islands adjoining, with the Regulations thereof.

4 *Anne*, Cap. xv. Fishery of the River *Stower* in *Essex* and *Suffolk*.

4 and 5 *Anne*, Cap. xxi. Conservation, &c. of the Fishers of the Rivers, Creeks, &c. in the Counties of *Southampton*, and the southern Parts of *Wiltshire*. Seasons. Assize of Nets, &c.

9 *Anne*, Cap. xxvi. River *Thames*. See p.

1 *Geo.* I. Cap. xviii. No *Herring, Cod, Pilchard, Salmon, Ling*, fresh or salted, dried or bloated: Nor *Grill, Mackrell, Whiting, Haddock, Sprat, Coal-fish, Gull-fish, Conger*, nor any Sort of flat Fish, or fresh Fish, to be imported or sold in *England*. That taken by any Foreigner, or out of any Strangers Bot-

tom, except Protestant Inhabitants. *Eels*, *Stock-fish*, *Anchovies*, *Sturgeon*, *Botargo*, or *Cavear*, excepted. Assize of Drag-Nets used at Sea, &c. Assize of *Turbot*, *Brill*, *Pearl*, *Codlin*, *Whiting*, *Bass*, *Mullet*, *Sole*, *Plaice*, *Dab*, and *Flounders*, brought to Shore, sold, or exchanged, with Penalty. *Lobsters* and *Turbuts* may be imported by Foreigners. Assize of *Salmon* brought to *London*, &c. &c. River *Severn*, *Dee*, &c.

2 Geo. II. Cap. xix. Concerning the *Rochester* Fishery.

9 Geo. II. Cap. xxxiii. Confirming 1st Clause of 1 Geo. I. Cap. xviii. about Importation of *Stock-fish* by Foreigners. *British* Ships trading to the *Mediterranean* Sea, &c. *Lobsters*, when in Defence on the Coast of *Scotland*, &c. &c.



As the *Navigation* of this noble River is so very extensive and useful, as that we can thereby so readily convey any Goods, or other Matters, to so many different, nay distant *Counties*, of this Kingdom; I cannot forbear here annexing an Account of the several *Keys*, *Wharfs*, and other Places of this *City* and *Suburbs*, adjoining to the *Thames*; from whence, when, and to what particular *Counties*, *Towns*, and *Villages*, all, or any Goods, or other *Commodities*, may be sent, or *Passengers* conveyed to.

Whereby the Reader may the more evidently see the *Conveniency* and *Importance*, which the *Navigation* of this glorious *River* is of, as well to the *Publick*, as to *Particulars*; to whom, it may not be unacceptable, especially to those who live adjacent to, or may have any Concern with, or in the *Navigation* of this River, to know the more readily, where, when, and how to send, or go,

Of Water-Carriage, &c.

to, from, and by the several *Keys, Wharfs, Boats, &c.*

WATER-CARRIAGE on the Thames, from LONDON, to the several Cities, Towns, &c. in the following Counties.

BERKSHIRE. To *Abindon, Newbery,* and *Reading*; from the *Bull by Brook's Wharf, Queenhithe,* every Week.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE. To *Windsor*; from *Queenhithe,* *Tuesdays* and *Fridays.*

CAMBRIDGESHIRE. By *Wisbich-Hoys*; from *Billingsgate-Dock.*

CHESHIRE. From *Smart's-Key.*

CORNWALL. To *Truro, Falmouth,* and *Places* adjacent; from *Fresh-Wharf,* next to *London-Bridge,* or from *Bridgehouse, Southwark.*

DEVONSHIRE. From *Fresh-Wharf,* next to *London-Bridge,* or from *Bridgehouse, Southwark.*

DORSETSHIRE. From *Bridgehouse, Southwark.*

DURHAM. By *Sunderland* and *Newcastle-Carriers,* at *Dash's-Wharf,* Southward of *Fishmongers-Hall.*

ESSEX. By *Harwich Hoys*; from *Hartshorn's Brewhouse,* the lower End of *East-Smithfield,* *Mondays* and *Thursdays.*

Colchester Hoy; from *Wiggin's-Key.*

Woodbridge and *Malden*; from *Wiggin's-Key.*

Lee Hoy; from *St. Catherine's-Dock,* every *Friday.*

KENT.

KENT. *Canterbury, Sandwich, Feversham and Milton Hoys*; from *Bear-Key, or Bridge-house*, in *Southwark*, every Week.

Deal-Hookers; from *Bear-Key*, every Week.

Maidstone Hoys; from *Battle-bridge*, every Week.

Queenborough; from *Bear-Key*, every Week.

Gravesend Boats, and Tilt-Boats; from *Billingsgate*, every Day except *Sundays*.

LEICESTERSHIRE. From *Ralph's-Key*.

MIDDLESEX. *Stain's-Barge*; from *Queenbithe*, *Tuesdays* and *Fridays*.

Shepperton, Sundbury, and Hampton-Town Boats (and Places adjacent) *Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays*, in Summer, *Tuesdays and Fridays*, in Winter.

NORFOLK. From *Dice-Key*, by *Billingsgate*.

NORTHUMBERLAND. From *Dash's-Wharf*, Southward of *Fishmongers-hall*.

NOTINGHAMSHIRE. From *Ralph's-Key*.

OXFORDSHIRE. From *Brook's-Wharf*, by *Queenbithe*.

SOMMERSETSHIRE. From *Battle-bridge*, *Southwark*.

SUFFOLK. From *Dice-Key*, by *Billingsgate*.

SURRY. *Chertsea and Weybridge Barges*; from *Queenbithe*, *Tuesdays* and *Thursdays*.

Walton-Boats; from *Queenbithe* and *Hungerford Stairs*, *Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays*, in the Summer, and *Tuesdays and Fridays* in the Winter.

Guilford Luggage-Boats; from *Queenbithe*, and other Places.

YORKSHIRE. *York* directly from *Smart's-Key*. *York, Hull, Leeds, &c.* from the *Custom-house-Key*, and *Ralph's-Key*.

**KEYS, WHARFS, and DOCKS, adjoining
to the Thames, London.**

KEYS, are such Places, where Ships, Hoys, Lighters, Barges, or Boats, do generally lade, or unlade their Freight, the chief of which are,

BILLINGSGATE-KEY, between little Sommer's-Key, and Smart's-Key. Brewer's-Key, the most Easterly Key, next the Tower.

Chester-Key, the very next Key Westwards of Brewer's-Key.

Cox's-Key, the first Key Eastward from London-Bridge, and situated between Fresh-Wharf, and Botolph-Wharf.

Customhouse-Key, between Great Bear-Key, and Porter's-Key.

Galley-Key, between Chester-Key, and Wool-Key.

Great Bear-Key, between the Customhouse-Key, and Little Bear-Key.

Great Dice-Key, the second Key Eastward from Billingsgate-Key.

Little Dice-Key, the third Key Eastward from Billingsgate-Key.

Little Bear-Key, between Wiggin's-Key, and Great Bear-Key.

Little Sommer's Key, between Billingsgate East, and Sommer's-Key West.

Porter's-Key, between the Customhouse-Key, and Wool-Key.

Ralph's-

Ralph's-Key, the fourth Key Eastward from *Billinggate*.

Smart's-Key, the first Key Eastward from *Billinggate*.

Sommer's-Key, the next Key Westward of *Billinggate*.

Wiggin's-Key, between *Ralph's-Key*, and *Little Bear-Key*.

Wool-Key, betwen *Porter's-Key*, and *Galley-Key*.

WHARFS are such Places, where Goods and Merchants Wares, &c. are frequently landed, and from whence they are shipped off; the principal of which are,

BELL-WHARF, leading to upper *Shadwell*.

Bull-Wharf, near the westerly End of *Tooley-Street*, *Southwark*.

Botolph-Wharf, between *Cox's-Key*, and *Sommer's-Key*.

Broken-Wharf, next to *London-Bridge* Westward.

Fresh-Wharf, next to *London-Bridge*, Eastward.

Sellinger's-Wharf, near to *Bull-Wharf*, by *Tooley-Street*.

Docks are small Harbours cut into the Land, and are useful for the convenient Lying of Vessels, Hoys, Lighters, Barges, Boats, &c. the principal of which are as follows, viz.

BILLINGSGATE - Dock, a Place of great Resort and Trade, and where Ships, of considerable Burthen may harbour. *Dowgate-Dock*, in *Thames-Street*, Southward from *Dowgate-hill*.

Execution-Dock, between *Wapping-new-Stairs*, and *King Edward's Stairs*. So called, because it is the only Place, where Pirates and Sea-Robbers, are executed.

Hermitage-Dock, at *Hermitage-bridge*, by *Wapping*.

St. Catherine's-Dock, Eastward from the *Tower*.

Limehouse-Dock, at *Lime-house*, beyond *Ratcliff-Cross*.

Puddle-Dock, at the West End of *Thames-Street*.

Queenhithe-Dock, at *Queenhithe*, in *Thames-Street*. A Place where much ground Corn, or Meal, &c. from the West-Country is landed, &c.

Ratcliff-Dock, near *Broad-Street* in *Ratcliff*.

Sab's-Dock, at *Bear-Key*.

Saviour's-Dock, near *St. Saviour's-Church*, *Southwark*.

Savory's-Dock, between *East-Stairs* and *New-Stairs*, near *Shad-Thames*, on the South Side the River.

Scotland-Dock, adjoining to *White-hall*.

Tower.

Tower-Dock, at the East End of *Thames-Street*.
Wapping-Dock, near to, and Eastwards from
Execution-Dock.

Whitefriars-Dock, at the lower End of *Water-Lane*, in *Fleet-Street*.

N. B. *For the further Information of the particular Rates of Water-Carriage, by Tilt-boats, Wherries, Oars, or Scullars, plying on the Thames. See Page 155, to 157.*





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